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ARAB TIMES

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1990/SHAWWAL 28, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILLS



Traore in Kuwait

HH the Amir welcoming the President of Mali Moussa Traore at the airport.
(See Page 11)

Saleh heads 'giant' Yemen

ADEN, May 22. (Agencies): Pro-western North Yemen and socialist South Yemen merged today after 300 years of separation to form a powerful new republic dominating the strategic strait to the Red Sea.

North Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh proclaimed unification in Aden after the parliament of both states elected him President of a nation of 13 million people the size of France in the southwestern corner of the Arabian peninsula.

The speed of the merger between the two states with widely different political and economic systems has even outpaced the rush by the two Germanys towards unification. The merger was only approved last November.

Saleh announced the creation of the Yemeni republic in ceremonies at noon, declaring: "The new state has removed forever the imaginary border lines created during partition and is now embarking on a new era."

Saleh asked former president of South Yemen Ali Abdullah Bakr Al-Atas to pick a team to govern the united country.

The Radio Sanaa said that Saleh also called on the two parliaments of the previously separate countries to convene a joint session on Saturday to form a united assembly.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad of Kuwait today sent a cable of congratulations to President Saleh on the occasion of the merger of two Yemenis.

The Amir expressed sincere wishes for this "important historical event," praising the great efforts that were exerted by officials to achieve such unity that "expresses the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people."

The Amir also sent a similar cable to Vice President of the Yemeni Republic Ali Salem Al Beidh.

(Continued on Page 9)

'Militants planned to kill Mubarak'

CAIRO, May 22. (Reuters): An Egyptian court was told today that three Muslim militants who staged a dramatic escape from prison in 1988 had planned to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak.

Prosecutor Yasser Rifai told a state security court that the escape was a first step by the three members of the outlawed Jihad (holy war) organisation, serving life sentences for their part in murder of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Two of the convicts were killed in clashes with security forces trying to arrest them. The third, Mohammed Al Aswani, is on trial with 20 others accused of helping the trio.

Arab notables protest US policies in ME

KUWAIT, May 22. (Kuna): A group representing tens of prominent Arab figures here today met with US Ambassador Wilson Nathaniel and handed him a message of protest against American policies in the Middle East.

According to a spokesman for the group, Dr Hasan Al Ibrahim who is a

former Kuwaiti education minister, the ambassador promised to deliver the message to President George Bush.

The message, a copy of which was obtained by Kuna, said the "US assumes a major responsibility for the plight of the Palestinian people from the outset of the Arab-Israeli conflict

until the present day."

In a direct attack on US assistance to Israel, the message said, "without the great material assistance and moral support extended by the USA, the large numbers of eastern and western Jews would have never found it possible to settle in Palestine at the expense of the

Palestinians."

It further said, "The USA's role is not confined to assistance in the process of settlement in Palestine, but transcended to include military assistance which transferred Israel into one of the world's most intensive military arsenals, which in turn enabled it to wage

Wars and expand constantly at the expense of its neighbours."

US annual aid to Israel amounts to nearly \$3.5 billion, including some \$1.5 billion assigned for military purposes.

The message was signed by 62 people from various Arab countries including executives, lawyers, bankers, profes-

sors, physicians, parliamentarians, businessmen, financiers, editors and historians.

It was handed to the American Ambassador by Dr Al Ibrahim, Jasem Al Mutawa (chief editor of Kuwait's Al

(Continued on Page 11)

Mubarak warns of war as uprising hots up

Arab ministers blame Israel for massacre

NICOSIA, May 22. (Agencies): Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak warned today of the threat of war in the Middle East as enraged Arabs rioted in the occupied territories and Jordan over Sunday's massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli gunman.

At least 22 Palestinians and a Jew have died and more than 800 Arabs have been wounded in three days of bloodshed that started with the killing of seven Arabs from the Israeli-occupied

Gaza Strip.

Ami Popper, a 21-year-old disgraced soldier described by his father as a lunatic, gunned down the seven day labourers at an Israeli pickup point near Tel Aviv nicknamed the 'Slave Market.'

As riots continued, Israel's headline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israelis were being forced to defend themselves in the face of a resurgence in the 19-month Palestinian uprising.

Palestinian boy shot dead

Jordan 'camps erupts in fury'

AMMAN, May 22. (AP): Demonstrations that erupted in Palestinian refugee camps throughout Jordan today resulted in at least two deaths and 25 injuries, according to official accounts.

Police shot and killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy in the northern city of Irbid, while an unidentified resident of Hiteen camp was accidentally killed by a gunshot from a fellow protester.

A hospital official and relatives reported a third death, but the Interior Ministry denied the report.

The official news agency Petra put the toll at two killed and 25 injured, including three policemen.

The demonstrations followed the murder of seven Palestinians labourers on Sunday by an Israeli gunman in a Tel Aviv suburb. Subsequent riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where many Palestinians have close family members, left another 11 dead and more than 800 injured.

A government source said the 24-member cabinet under Prime Minister Mudar Badran held an emergency meeting today to discuss how to defuse the crisis.

"The government will take all the necessary measures to guarantee security and order," Badran told Petra after the meeting.

He warned the demonstrators that the incidents in Jordan were "shifting the attention from Israeli measures against Palestinians inside the occupied territories."

The 80-man chamber of deputies also held a special meeting today and called on the Jordanian citizens to abide by the country's laws and regulations.

Four French tourists hospitalized yesterday after a gun and dagger attack by a Palestinian seeking vengeance were recovering. They are expected to be released within days, while a Jordanian photographer shot through the hands during the attack will need more treatment, hospital officials said.

In the Baqaa refugee camp, 17 miles (27 kilometres) northwest of Amman, more than 7,000 Palestinians clashed with riot police, burned tyres and blocked highways to protest police intervention in their demonstration yesterday.



Israeli police pull and push a Palestinian woman to a waiting van as she is arrested yesterday outside the UN consulate as police break up a peaceful demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Iraq won't attack'

CAIRO, May 22. (Agencies): Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has no wish to fight Israel but wants to avoid an Israeli strike against his country, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said today.

"I assure you Saddam Hussein is not threatening Israel. He does not say he will fight Israel and is not thinking at all of this," Mubarak said today.

■ Iraq and the PLO claimed today that Western allegations about a "super gun" under construction here to fire nuclear or chemical weapons at Israel were a prelude to an attack against Iraq.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and the PLO's political department chief,

Famuk Kaddoumi, linked the Western threats to the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and the weekend killing of seven Arab labourers near Tel Aviv.

They spoke at the inaugural session of an Arab foreign ministers meeting at the plush Al Rashid hotel. The meeting convened to prepare for a special summit of their kings and heads of state set for May 28.

The summit was called by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to discuss the migration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel and Iraq asked that its confrontation with the West be included on the agenda.

Arabs set deadline for Arafat visa

UNITED NATIONS, May 22. (Agencies): The Arab states have given the United States until noon Tuesday to grant PLO chairman Yasser Arafat a visa so he can participate in an urgent Security Council meeting on the Israeli massacre in Palestine, Arab League Ambassador Clovis Makoud said today.

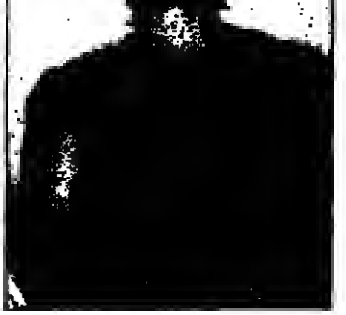
The request for a visa was submitted yesterday afternoon by the Palestinian delegation to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The 22-member Arab group, meeting twice in the morning, called for an immediate and urgent session of the council following the killings of eight workers in Gaza on Sunday and the wounding of sources of others.

If the US agrees to issuing a visa, the council could begin the meeting later in the day or the following day, awaiting Arafat's arrival, Makoud said.

In case of a negative US response, the Arabs will propose to shift the council session to another place, most likely Geneva, Switzerland or Vienna, Austria, where the UN has a presence.

None of the five permanent council members with the right to veto can block such a decision, according to the Security Council's rules of procedure.



Ami Popper sits in a court. (Reuters wirephoto)

9 more pull out from elections

KUWAIT, May 22. (Kuna): Nine candidates today withdrew their candidacy for the National Council elections due to be held on June 10.

After today's withdrawals, the number of the candidates running for the elections declined to 466 candidates.

Mammoth Srinagar funeral for Farooq



Relatives and friends mourn at the body of Moulvi Farooq at Srinagar yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burial in volley of fire

Militants underground

Shift to rural war

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 22. (Reuters): The main militant group fighting for Kashmir's independence from India says it has turned to rural guerrilla warfare and begun attacking Indian military forces.

Spokesmen for the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said they believed the switch to what they called the second stage of their struggle would ease the pressure of a four-month-old Indian government crackdown in the cities of the disputed region.

"Our movement has now entered the second stage, that of guerrilla war," JKLF central committee member Raja Muzaffar told Reuters yesterday in Pakistan's Azad (free) Kashmir capital Muzaffarabad.

"We are trying to get the maximum number of sophisticated arms," he said. "Our fighters are also snatching weapons from the Indians."

He said several recent attacks on Indian military units in far-flung areas had gone unreported in the press because of an Indian news blackout in the area.

Twenty-seven Indian soldiers were killed and 14 army vehicles destroyed in a recent JKLF attack in Kashmir's Kupwara district, he said.

JKLF vice-president Farooq Haider said in the Pakistani town of Rawalpindi today that Kashmir would be suitable terrain for guerrilla war.

"The guerrilla needs river banks, caves, mountains, thick forests and marshes. All this is available here," he said.

Chautala forced to quit

Subcontinent Focus - Page 7

state.

A curfew was also maintained in many parts of the mountain-ringed city. Soldiers were posted at major intersections and in rooftop machine-gun nests or moved slowly along streets in trucks, their weapons at the ready.

As large crowds—nearly one-third of Srinagar's population—gathered again today, the government withdrew all security forces along the route of the funeral procession that wound its way

from Islamia College to Martyrs Cemetery on the outskirts of the capital.

Farooq's rose-covered coffin was kept in a truck that moved slowly at the head of the two-kilometre (one-mile) long procession. It took four hours to travel the seven-kilometre (four-mile) route to the cemetery beside the Red Rah prayer ground.

Thousands of men and women, weeping and beating

(Continued on Page 7)

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INTERNATIONAL

21 officers charged in coup attempt

Grenade attacks on banks in Manila

MANILA, May 22. (Agencies): A general court martial accused 21 military officers today of conspiring to commit murder and mutiny in the December coup attempt against President Corason Aquino.

The charges against Brig. Gen. Jose Commendador, Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando and 19 other officers — the first to go on trial in the rebellion — were contained in a 31-page charge sheet read to the defendants.

Arraignment of the accused was deferred for next week on a motion by defence lawyers at the close of the three-hour reading of charges in connection with

the uprising in which 119 people were killed and more than 500 wounded. The session was adjourned until next Tuesday as requested by defence attorneys to allow their clients time to study their pleas.

Meanwhile, police said unidentified men set off three grenades and planted two time bombs in front of four banks in metropolitan Manila before the offices opened on Friday, causing minor damage but no injuries.

The grenade attacks were reported at the security bank of Espana street and its branch in the capital's tourist district. In the Makati financial district, police

defused two explosive devices at two buildings housing the headquarters of Security Bank and Philbanking Corp. One bomb contained 17 sticks of dynamite and the other 30. Both were rigged with timing devices.

On Friday, masked men fired two rifle grenades on a building housing US government offices, but caused no casualties.

"This is no longer a joke," said Makati police Chief Col Remy Macaspac. "I think this is the work of terrorists, either rightist or leftist. We're trying to find out who."

The government is battling a 21-year communist insurgency and rebel soldiers

blamed for six coup attempts against Aquino.

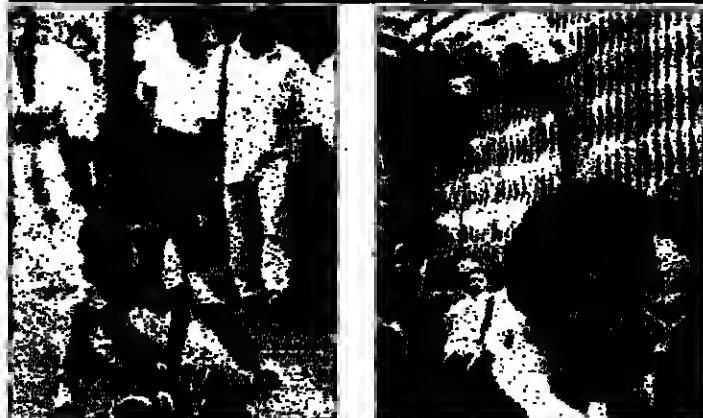
The reading of the charges against the 21 officers came after the tribunal dismissed challenges to the competence of the head of the court, Brig. Gen. Demetrio Canua.

The charge sheet accused the defendants of "murder and attempted murder" in the killing of 21 people, including two officers, and the wounding of 51 soldiers.

In addition, they were charged with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, by committing acts that brought "dishonour and disrespect" to the military.



Rebel generals Jose Commendador (left) and Marcelo Blando (2nd from left) and other military officers listen behind bars Tuesday at a military camp in Manila while a prosecutor reads charges linking them to December coup attempt against President Corason Aquino. (Reuter wirephoto)



A bomb disposal expert (left) tries to defuse a pack of dynamite sticks found in front of a bank in financial district of Makati as another expert (right) holds aloft a bomb retrieved about 50 metres away. (Reuter wirephoto)

British stage actor Wall dies

LONDON, May 22. (AP): Max Wall, whose stage talents took him from music hall comedy via the plays of Samuel Beckett to acclaim as a serious actor, died today after a fall. He was 82.

Wall fell at Simpson's restaurant in central London last afternoon, said his agent, Joan Prichard. He never regained consciousness and died at Westminster Hospital from a fractured skull.

Wall was born Maxwell George Lorimer in South London on March 12, 1908 into a family of entertainers, and made his first stage appearance as a baby in a kilt. At 14 he played Jack in Mother Goose, with a travelling pantomime, and in 1925 he landed his first London stage role, as a dancer.

After appearing on Broadway in 1932, in Earl Carroll's Vanities, he bought his madcap humour and acrobatic dancing skills to many musicals and stage comedies in Britain.

Unrest

The minister, meeting in Baghdad to prepare for an emergency Arab summit next week, blamed the Israeli government for the massacre of seven Palestinian workers by a deranged Israeli gunman on Sunday.

"It (the shooting) was designed to intimidate the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and drive them out of their homeland so that they can absorb more settlers," the ministers said in a statement.

The ministers will also raise Arab concerns at Soviet emigration in letters they are preparing for their heads of state to send to US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, delegates said.

Bush and Gorbachev should receive the letters before they meet in Washington at the end of the month, they said.

Speakers today said Arab unity was the only remedy for what they say is the gravest crisis in years. But there was no sign that Syria would drop plans to boycott the meeting.

Delegates said Egypt was still trying to persuade Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to come next week or at least send a representative.

Troops shot dead a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip Tuesday, and police battled protesters outside the US consulate in occupied Jerusalem as fresh rioting erupted over the weekend massacre of seven unarmed Arab labourers.

At least 14 Palestinians were wounded by troops in clashes in the Gaza Strip, including a woman five months pregnant who was hit in the stomach with a plastic bullet, Arab hospital officials said.

Another Palestinian died of wounds suffered in an earlier clash, bringing to 22 the number of Arabs killed in three days of rioting. The number of Palestinians injured by troops since Sunday reached at least 826.

Throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians closed shops and schools and stayed home from jobs in Israel for a third day to protest Sunday's slayings.

The army extended a curfew on the Gaza Strip, home of the slain workers, and most of the West Bank to quell angry protests. About 1.5 million Palestinians are confined to their homes by the curfew.

Israeli police tear gassed 200 peaceful Palestinian demonstrators taking a petition to the US consulate in east Jerusalem today while the death toll in a wave of renewed Arab-Israeli violence reached 22.

Three more Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip died — two shot by soldiers and one by Jewish settlers. At least 29 were wounded by troops, who maintained a curfew on one million Arab residents of the occupied territories.

The marchers in Jerusalem, carrying black flags, were protesting against the mass murder of seven Arab labourers.

Witnesses said police waded into the crowd, which included three Israeli Arab party members and Muslim and Christian clergy, and dragged screaming women away to waiting vans.

"There was no need to use such violence and brutality," Arab parliamentarian Abdel-Wahab Darwish told Reuters.

"We want to give a message to the American consul-general protesting against Israeli policy and the massacres, and demanding that the US government use pressure on the Israeli government to talk with the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinians," he said.

Earlier, a petrol bomb was thrown into a home in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem's Old City causing damage but no injuries, police said.

Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising that aims to create a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital have called a strike for Wednesday.

Meanwhile, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has promised that if his Labour Party forms another government, it will settle Soviet immigrants in Israel itself, not on occupied soil.

Peres was among Mubarak's audience as the Egyptian leader opened a meeting of the Socialist International Council.

60 drown in boat capsizes

JAKARTA, May 22. (UPI): At least 60 bodies were recovered and 141 victims were rescued after an overloaded ferry capsized in the Sulawesi Sea, officials said today.

The boat, the Cahaya Macali, was authorised to carry 115 passengers including a five-member crew, but it was packed with about 200 people when it sank Sunday night off the eastern coast of Kalimantan, the official news agency Antara reported.

But an afternoon newspaper, Suara Pembaruan, today quoted a port source as saying the ferry carried at least 300 people. Many of the passengers were Indonesian workers employed in Malaysia, the newspaper said.



Hunger strike

Leading Palestinian activist Faisal Hussein speaks to a group of Palestinian women on the grounds of the International Red Cross headquarters. Hussein is leading a hunger strike attended by some 100 Palestinians demanding international action against Israel.

Mass killer a lunatic

Father apologises

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 22. (Reuters): The father of an Israeli gunman who killed seven Palestinians in cold blood called his son a lunatic today and the army said he had a long record of unstable criminal behaviour.

Ami Popper, a 21-year-old former soldier who gunned down the Arab workers in Israel on Sunday, mocked army commanders, deserted and once tried to commit suicide before being dishonourably discharged 17 months ago, the army said.

"I saw him yesterday on the television news. That isn't my Ami. I'm not trying to say he is not my son. But it's not the Ami I know. His glance, the eyes, are not Ami. It's a lunatic," Haim Popper, the father, told a radio interviewer.

The killings in Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv re-ignited the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising. At least 12 Arabs and a Jew have died in subsequent violence that swept across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and Arab areas of Israel.

The father apologised to Israelis and to the Arab families for the events caused by what he called "this crazy incident." He said his son had no political inclinations and he could not say what his motive was.

An army statement detailing Popper's chequered military record appeared aimed at buttressing official assertions he was a lone madman, dressed in an old army uniform.

Israel's Arab population increasingly being drawn into uprising

TAIBE, Israel, May 22. (Reuters): Despite dire government warnings, Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens are increasingly being drawn into the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The rubble of stone barricades, scorchmarks from burning tyres and black flags on many buildings in this Muslim town of 24,000 bore witness today to fierce clashes

between masked Arab youths and police the previous day.

Sunday's killing by an apparently deranged Jewish gunman of seven Palestinians waiting for day-labour triggered the most serious nationalist violence among Israeli Arabs since a strike at the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

"Events like this are pulling us in," said Jaber Hatem, deputy mayor of Taibe.

"Whatever happens, things will never be the same again. This will stay deep in our hearts and our feelings," he told Reuters.

"Arab Israelis crossed the border-line of the permissible," Cabinet Minister for Arab Affairs Ehud Olmert warned. "Someone is greasing the wheels of this

reaction."

Many Israeli Arabs said the violence was a reaction to a blind hatred of all Arabs reflected in the mass murder.

"The gunmen killed those Arabs simply because they were Arabs. If there had been three or four guys from Tambe standing there, do you think he wouldn't have shot them?" Hatem asked.

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Louguina poses with American actor Ben Gazzara (right) after he received the Best Director award for *Taxi Blues*. (Reuter wirephoto)



Lynch kisses Rosalind Wiseman after he won the Golden Palm for his film *Wild at Heart*. (Reuter wirephoto)



Janda cries as she gets the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival on May 21.

'Wild at Heart' wins Golden Palm award

A tale of violence and lustful romances in the American South

CANNES, France, May 21, (UPI) — US director David Lynch's "Wild at Heart," a tale of violence and lustful romance in the American south, won the coveted Golden Palm award at the 43rd international Cannes Film Festival yesterday.

The movie, which features highly-charged sex scenes between Nicolas Cage and Laura Dern, drew gasps from the audience of critics when it was screened Saturday.

"I've been trying to get to the Cannes Film Festival for years," a delighted Lynch told a Gala audience and French national television audience at the closing ceremonies.

French superstar Gerard Depardieu won the prize for best actor for his role as the anti-hero with the ugly nose in Jean-Paul Rappeneau's cinematic production of the classic French play "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Hollywood's favourite eccentric

Lynch work is his life

LOS ANGELES, May 22, (Reuter) — Film director David Lynch, winner of the Golden Palm award at the Cannes festival for "Wild at Heart," is Hollywood's favourite eccentric — a cult leader whose dark, moody, often sexually violent films fascinate and unsettle audiences.

Lynch, a dedicated, driven man, has made his life. He is also a baby-faced, charming, conversationalist whose mop of hair and voice with a twinge of a country accent earned the nickname "Jimmy Stewart from Mars" from producer Mel Brooks.

Lynch's film "Wild at Heart" has violence and sex scenes that will almost certainly earn it an X-rating for adult audiences only in the United States unless cuts are made.

The film stars Nicolas Cage and real-life mother and daughter Diane Ladd and Laura Dern in a story of lovers trying to escape the police in a doomed small-town America. Also in the film is Isabella Rossellini, Lynch's girlfriend and mother of his child, portraying a killer.

The award of the most coveted prize at Cannes came as the US ABC television announced it would retain his off-beat series "Twin Peaks," a dark

Gothic murder mystery set in a small town in the American northwest, for its autumn season.

The series, which marked Lynch's entry into television, has a dancing dwarf, a sadistic truck driver, a doctor who has cotton swabs in his ears and a woman who carries a pet log. It is the story of how the murder of a high school beauty queen uncovers a town's secrets.

As a young man, Lynch, now 43, produced a short film called "Grandmother" about a disturbed boy who plants a seed that grows in his grandmother. His first feature film, "Eraserhead", told the story of a couple and their mutant baby in a grim industrial town.

The film, released in 1977, took five years to complete because Lynch, who developed a habit of meditating each day while making the film, kept running out of money.

Then in 1980 came "The Elephant Man," the true-life story of the relationship between the tragically deformed John Merrick and his doctor in a grimy 19th century London. It was a box office success and earned Lynch Academy Award nominations for best director and best adapted screenplay.

Polish actress Krystyna Janda won the prize for Best Actress for her performance in the movie "The Interrogation" directed by her countryman Ryszard Bugajski.

Japanese director Kohji Oguri and Burkina Faso film-maker Idriss Ouedraogo received jointly the festival's second prize, the special Jury Prize, for their films "The Sting of Death" and "Tilai."

"Hidden Agenda," a controversial political drama about northern Ireland directed by leftist British director Ken Loach, won the runner's up "Jury Prize."

American director Adam Davidson won the Golden Palm for a short-length film for his "The Lunch Date." Two other short-length films received runner's up Jury Prizes — Barthelemy Bompard of France for "Revestricioo" and Maarten Koopman of the Netherlands for "De Slaapkammer."

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SAN JOSE, California: More than a dozen foreign soccer players who came to southern California for tournament were the victims of hotel burglaries who stole \$20,000 worth of items from their rooms in two incidents.

San Jose police made one arrest Monday in connection with the Sunday burglary at the Fairmont Hotel where \$6,000 in cash, checks and valuables were stolen from seven members of the Real Madrid Spanish soccer team.

At the same time, members of the German national team also were burglarized of \$14,000 in cash and valuables at the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara, according to police.

San Jose police Lt. Darryl Richter said authorities didn't know whether the burglaries were connected.

Police arrested Joseph David Castro, 23, of San Jose, for investigation of burglary and possession of stolen items in connection with the Fairmont crime. Castro is a mini-bar attendant at the hotel and had access to pass keys that were used to get into the rooms, police said. (AP)

CHICAGO: Fast food is getting faster with a computerized device introduced Monday that turns customers into order takers, isn't rude and — like regular clerks — even asks if they wouldn't like a soda with their fries.

The computer would give customers more control over their orders and increase employee efficiency amid a troubling labour shortage, said officials at IBM, which developed the product, and a fast-food chain that recently began using it.

If a customer orders a sandwich and salad, for example, but no soft drink, the screen illuminates a printed message saying, "would you like a refreshing soda?"

As the customer places the order, it appears on similar screens in the kitchen area, eliminating the need for clerks to shout or walk orders back to the cooks. (AP)



Henson memorial

There were happy songs, upbeat words and a gaggle of muppet pals at a memorial service Monday for Jim Henson, an eccentric with the master puppeteer's wishes.

Henson, who created the muppets and used them to entertain and educate children worldwide on "Sesame Street" and elsewhere, died Wednesday from pneumonia.

Henson had written instructions for his funeral four years ago that were opened after his death. He said he wanted the occasion to be a happy one and that mourners should not wear black.

Mourners fluted colourful butterflies atop metal stems as Harry Belafonte (shown above) and three backup singers sang "Turn The World Around."

Affairs

Husbands ignorant

NEW YORK, May 22, (Reuter) — Three American husbands in every four questioned in a survey on attitudes towards marriage said they were certain their wives would never cheat, but nearly 35 per cent of the women questioned said they already had.

The survey, in the June issue of the men's magazine Esquire, showed a similar discrepancy between wives' expectations and their husbands' faithfulness.

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Kuwait, 24, 25 May Meridian 9 00am-1.00pm and 4 00pm-6 00PM

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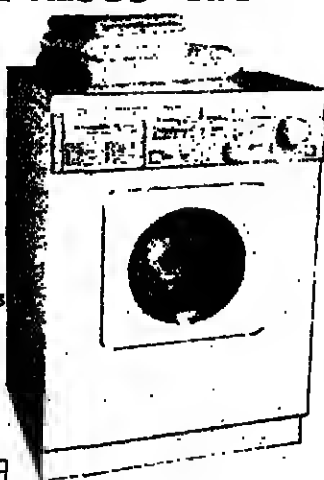
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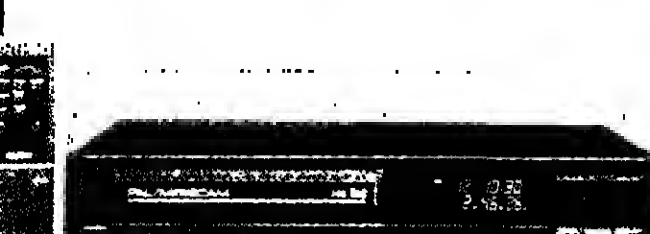
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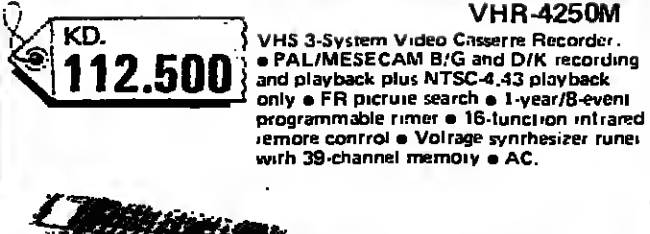
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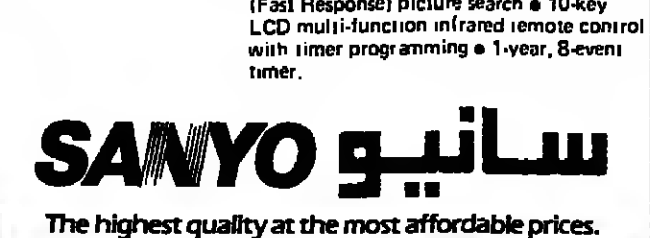
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Handal speaks with reporters on May 21, in Caracas. (Reuters wirephoto)

FMLN rebels agree on agenda

CARACAS, Venezuela, May 22. (AP) Salvadoran guerrillas and government representatives yesterday agreed on a broad agenda for talks to end a decade-long civil war that has claimed over 70,000 lives in the Central American outland.

Salvadoran officials and leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) ended five days of close-door peace talks in Caracas. They signed a "general agenda and a calendar" to bring peace to their embattled country.

"It is an encouraging step forward," said Alvaro de Soto, representative to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"We have entered into substance. Now negotiations will focus on the political agreements necessary for a ceasefire under the United Nations supervision," he said at a news conference.

The agreement is the first between the sides that includes specific negotiation points and a tentative calendar.

In Sao Salvador, FMLN leaders said yesterday they reserve the right to launch another offensive if the talks with President Alfredo Cristiani's rightist government fail to produce a ceasefire and agreement to end the war.

Fighting continued while the talks were going on in Venezuela, but daily reports during the past week did not seem to indicate a sharp increase in the intensity of the conflict.

Under the agenda, a new round of UN-mediated talks scheduled for mid-June will focus on reaching a ceasefire and guarantees to protect civilians.

The talks will also cover the Salvadoran Army, human rights, the judicial system, the electoral system, constitutional reforms and social and economic problems. Many consider the latter two problems to be the root of the violence in the Central American nation.

Strict secrecy surrounding the Caracas talks made it impossible for reporters to determine how such a far-reaching programme would be put in place. But De Soto said he was optimistic.

Once an agreement is reached, the parties should work out the reintegration of FMLN fighters into Salvadoran society, the document said.

Officers in El Salvador's top military echelon have risen to power despite having commanded units linked to human rights abuses, according to a report issued on the eve of a congressional battle over cutting US military aid.

The study found that 14 of the country's 15 senior military commanders have had responsibility over units documented to have killed civilians, tortured prisoners, carried out kidnappings or covered up such abuses. (AP)

Nicaragua: Contra rebel leaders said yesterday they plan to resume disarmament after a break of several days, although many combatants said they will not lay down weapons until the Sandinista Army does so.

Israel Galeao, popularly known as commander Franklin, met yesterday with other rebel leaders in El Alamo in one of the country's five security zones, and said they decided to stage a massive disarmament May 30 in each of the zones. El Alamo is 150 miles (240 km) east of Managua. (UPI)

Dominican Republic: The outcome of an election in which challenger Juan Bosch accused President Joaquín Balaguer of fraud has been left in doubt with Balaguer leading by more than 5 per cent of the vote.

But some observers believe Bosch, 80, a former president overthrown by a military coup in 1963, may have lost the election to his 83-year-old rival and five-time president through a series of campaign blunders. (AP)

Scientists optimistic Hubble telescope near-perfect

WASHINGTON, May 22. (UPI) The first photos from the Hubble space telescope are in better focus than expected, giving scientists increased confidence the \$1.5 billion observatory will live up to its billing to revolutionise astronomy, officials said yesterday.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronomer Edward Weiler said the telescope's historic "first light" photos of a southern hemisphere star cluster were studied overnight and the quality of the pictures is even better than he initially thought, proving Hubble's near-perfect 94.5 inch (240 cm) mirror came through launch in good condition.

"It's given us more confidence that the mirror's in good shape and survived the launch very well," Weiler said. "Most of the light (from the stars) is concentrated in the centre of the image, which is exactly what you'd expect from a very high-quality mirror that is just slightly out of focus."

Orbiting high above Earth's obscuring atmosphere, the 12-ton telescope's electronic wide-field camera snapped two black-and-white pictures Sunday of a star cluster known as NGC 3532 to test the instrument's focus.

After computer processing, astronomer James Westphal, the camera's chief scientist, said the digital images were two to three times sharper than expected. Over the next two months, the telescope's mirrors will be adjusted in tiny increments to get the

focus seven times better.

But even the "rough focus" pictures taken Sunday were impressive. In a 30-second exposure, a double star was clearly apparent while a ground-based photo of the same region showed a single somewhat elongated image.

Weiler said improvements overnight in the contrast of the first-light photos improved the picture so much it will "knock your socks off."

Over the next week, technicians at NASA's Goddard space flight centre telescope control room will continue to adjust the telescope's focus and work to resolve tiny errors in the instrument's pointing and control system that are causing it to wobble very slightly.

No more pictures are expected to be released for several weeks.

"We will be doing some more images, but they will be really where we (can) fit them in," Weiler said. "For the next two or three months, we're really trying to get the fine focus down, the fine alignment down."

"But if we get an opportunity to take an image here or an image there, we'll do it over the next two or three months once we are in fine focus. The next time we release photos we want them to be what the space telescope can really do."



Colombian policemen search a passerby in a downtown street in Barranquilla on May 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barco's granddaughter target

Guards defuse bomb

BOGOTA, Colombia, May 22. (AP) Bodyguards for President Virgilio Barco's granddaughter defused a bomb at her school yesterday Swiss diplomatic sources and a teacher said.

The dynamite bomb was found with the fuse burning in front of the Helvetia School, a private Swiss school in the Colombian capital, a spokesman for the Swiss Embassy said on condition of anonymity.

"We were saved because bodyguards of the grandchild of the president... were able to put out the fuse in time," a teacher at the school, Ascal Stoffer, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

No one claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing. But drug traffickers have killed scores of people with bombs in Colombia in the last nine months.

Stoffer said the dynamite was in two large hurler



Gaviria poses with his wife Ana Milena and children Simon (right) and Maria Paz on May 19 at their apartment in Bogota. (Reuters wirephoto)

bombs that were on the sidewalk in front of the school in Bogota's Calatrava neighbourhood. He said the burning fuse was spotted by the bodyguards as they delivered the child to the school.

The child's name and age were not immediately available.

The bomb was about 1.5 miles (2.5 kms) from the site of a car bomb explosion Sunday night that injured 16 people.

Five car bombs have exploded in the cities of Bogota, Cali and Cartagena in the last eight days, killing 28 people and injuring more than 300.

Police have blamed the bombings on cocaine traffickers who are wreaking havoc in an attempt to force the government to grant them amnesties and halt extraditions to the United States.

President Barco ordered government security forces to crack down on the traffickers last Aug 18 after a presidential candidate, Luis Carlos Galan, was assassinated by the drug lords.

Since that time, the traffickers have set off dozens of bombs, including one in an airliner that killed 107 people. The traffickers also have been blamed by police for the slayings of two more presidential candidates after Galan.

Meanwhile, Colombian politicians denounced a suspected plan to sabotage Sunday's presidential elections after a senator allied with frothrunner Cesar Gaviria was murdered.

Federico Estrada Velez, 63, a senator of the ruling Liberal Party, and his driver were shot dead on Monday when they stopped at a traffic light in Medellin, headquarters of Colombia's biggest cocaine cartel, police said. The assassins escaped.

Nobody claimed responsibility but drug barons have declared politicians targets in their nine-month-old war on the state.

Estrada Velez was a regional campaign manager for Gaviria, Liberal candidate and strong favourite to win the elections with his tough stand against violence.

DEA men involved Capture of Mexican doctor

LOS ANGELES, May 22. (UPI) High-level officials at the Drug Enforcement Administration were involved in efforts to bring to trial a Mexican doctor indicted in the murder of US drug agent Enrique Camarena, a prosecutor said yesterday.

The DEA has denied any direct role in the capture by bounty hunters of Dr Humberto Alvarez Machain, a gynaecologist turned over to US custody on April 3 at El Paso International Airport in Texas after allegedly

being spirited from his office in Guadalajara, Mexico.

But assistant US Attorney William Fahey said at a hearing that plans to get the doctor to the United States "were known to fairly high-levels at the DEA."

Last week, documents filed by federal prosecutors said top Mexican law enforcement officials initially agreed to an "under-the-table" deal to smuggle Alvarez into the United States.

US agrees to pay attorney's fees on behalf of Noriega

MIAMI, May 22. (AP) The US government yesterday agreed to pay attorney's fees for Manuel Noriega's lawyers, saying the ousted Panamanian dictator should be assured a fair trial on drug charges.

The defence attorneys agreed to the deal offered by US Attorney Dexter Lehtinen, saying Noriega would sign promises to pay the government back if \$20 million in assets are unfrozen.

The deal between prosecutors and defence attorneys eliminated the need for discussion

of secret payoffs received from US intelligence agencies.

The defence lawyers had threatened to withdraw from the case, saying they could no longer function without money to pay for the complex and lengthy legal proceedings.

Lehtinen told US District Judge William Hoewerling during a hearing that the federal criminal justice act included provisions for the fee arrangement.

Hoewerling, pending approval of the unusual

Court upholds abortion ruling

WASHINGTON, May 22. (Reuters) The US supreme court yesterday left intact a ruling that a militant anti-abortion group had no legal right to keep women from entering abortion clinics.

The high court justices, who have grappled with the legal controversy surrounding abortion for the last two years, denied an appeal by the Operation Rescue group, which has blockaded and occupied abortion clinics nationwide.

arrangement by the chief judge of the southern district of Florida, set a hearing for Thursday to discuss details of the fees.

The defence said it would produce witnesses to testify about what costs were likely in such a complex case.

Lead defence Attorney Frank Rubino said Noriega, who was in court in his general's uniform but did not testify, agreed to sign affidavits declaring he was indigent and that if his assets were unfrozen he would repay the federal government.

Accutane blocks growth of tumour

Use of acne drug causes birth defects

WASHINGTON, May 22. (AP) The widely used acne drug Accutane appears to significantly block the growth of new tumours in people being treated for smoking-related cancer of the mouth and throat, according to a study released yesterday.

Although doctors can often initially remove all signs of this cancer with surgery and radiation, patients face a high risk of recurring tumours elsewhere in their throat and lungs.

The new research suggests that Accutane, an artificial form of Vitamin A can prevent the development of these second tumours.

"I think this stuff is great," said Dr Bruce Cheson of the National Cancer Institute. "If we can do this (prevent second cancers), it will be a major service."

Cancers of the head, neck, esophagus and lungs account for almost one-third of the 510,000 cancer deaths expected in the United States this year.

In his study, Hong gave Accutane to 49 patients in whom doctors had removed all outward signs of cancer. Another 51 people took dummy Placebos.

During three years of follow-up, two of the Accutane patients, or 4 per cent, developed second cancers, compared with 12 patients, or 24 per cent, in the comparison group.

Both of the Accutane patients had a single recurring tumour, while four of the 12 Placebo patients had multiple second cancers.

Patients took high doses of Accutane, and this turned out to be a drawback, because many suffered unpleasant side effects. These included dry skin, chapped lips and eye inflammation. The problems were so severe that 14 of the patients did not finish the year-long course of treatment.

"Some people said, 'Doc, I just can't take it. My face is so red that people think I'm drinking,'" Hong said.

Because of the side effects, Hong said he does not recommend the drug for routine use in these cancer patients. He said new studies will be necessary to see if lower doses will cause fewer problems yet still prevent recurring cancers.

Accutane, known technically as 13-CIS Retinoic Acid, can also cause birth defects if taken during pregnancy.

Hong theorized that the drug works by suppressing precancerous abnormalities in the body's air passageways.

He said this approach also raises the possibility that drugs may someday be able to prevent a first cancer in people who are at high risk because of a lifetime of exposure to tobacco smoke.

But even if this can be done, he added, "It would be very dangerous for smokers to think they can take a pill instead of giving up smoking."

Rockville, Maryland, two government doctors called Monday for tighter restrictions — one urged a ban — on use of the acne drug Accutane by women of childbearing age because it causes far more birth defects than the maker has acknowledged.

Despite strong warning to avoid using the drug during pregnancy, babies are probably being born with birth defects caused by the drug either because women ignore the warnings or their birth control methods fail, the researchers said.

Nobody claimed responsibility but drug barons have declared politicians targets in their nine-month-old war on the state.

Estrada Velez was a regional campaign manager for Gaviria, Liberal candidate and strong favourite to win the elections with his tough stand against violence.



Needle park

A man injects himself in the leg in the Platzspitz Park in downtown Zurich on Monday. City authorities unofficially tolerate the drug-taking and dealing in the park, referred to as "needle park."

The tolerance has drawn criticism that officials are making Zurich into a European drug centre. (Reuters wirephoto)



President George Bush is surrounded by kids from the 'United Friends for the Children,' an organisation for helping foster children, May 21, shortly before leaving for Los Angeles. (Reuters wirephoto)

Florida gunman commits suicide

MELBOURNE BEACH, Florida, May 22. (Reuters) A church member carrying a .44-calibre pistol shot a woman and held a deacon hostage in a Florida church for six hours yesterday before committing suicide, a police spokeswoman said.

The deacon, who suffered a leg injury, managed to crawl out of the church after police tear-gassed the building.

The gunman was identified as Doug Pearson, a member of the church who lived nearby.

The spokeswoman said that before entering the St Sebastian's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Pearson shot Diane Conarroe, 43, twice in the abdomen at point-blank range.

She was listed in critical condition after surgery in a local hospital. Parishioners said Conarroe was the wife of a youth group leader at the church.

The spokeswoman said Pearson then hopped up in the church and held deacon George Smollett hostage.

David Oraboni, a painter working in the church, said he saw the gunman come inside and start shooting.

"All I know is that as soon as I saw him, no more than five minutes later, he was shooting his gun," Oraboni said.

Hot Springs washed out Flood warning ignored

HOT SPRINGS, Arkansas, May 22. (AP) Flash flood warnings receded yesterday in Hot Springs, one day after a 6-foot (2-metre) wall of water caved in shop windows, carried off bridges and swept up cars and people.

Residents had to be rescued from their roofs after their homes were swamped by nearly 13 inches (33 cms) of rain in the 24 hours ending Sunday morning.

Several people rescued from cars were taken to hospitals with minor injuries.

"A wall of water just came in and everything was just floating around," said Bill Goodwin, who owns a souvenir store in the resort city. "Even the fixtures — they just turned over and floated."

A 90-year-old landmark iron bridge in Malvern on the Ouachita river was washed away. Eight other bridges in the Hot Springs area were washed out.

The national weather service issued severe thunderstorm warnings overnight for parts of Oklahoma and Arkansas, including Hot Springs, but flash flood warnings were not posted.

Early Monday, southeastern Oklahoma was blasted with 50 mile per hour (80 km per hour) winds and hailstones nearly as

big as golf balls, but flood levels in two affected rivers were expected to begin dropping, officials said.

In Indiana, residents in Petersburg and Boonville suffered the irony of having no fresh water despite the storms because raging torrents broke water mains.

On Monday, only about 60 homes in the Boonville water system remained without water, but Petersburg residents faced a water crisis that could last 10 days, officials said.

Meanwhile, local authorities in southern Indiana were preparing for inspections this week by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will determine whether home and business owners are eligible for low-interest federal loans.

Elsewhere, farmers in central Louisiana who erected levees to hold back the flooded Red river were warned to expect even higher water next month.

Flooding in the region along the Arkansas, Trinity and Red rivers has caused hundreds of millions of dollars in losses and killed 13 people in the past three weeks in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Floods eased in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Indiana.

Miami arms bazaar Heaven for underworld groups

MIAMI, May 22. (AP) In South Florida, money can buy the weaponry of your choice, whether it's anti-aircraft missiles, plastic explosives or drone bombers, authorities say.

The region is considered one of the world's best-equipped bazaars for black-market weapons of war, a rendezvous where guerrilla groups, narco-terrorists and other underworld elements seek ever more sophisticated firepower.

Colombia's drug cartels, their jungle cocaine labs and clandestine airstrips under assault from fighter bombers and helicopters gunships, appear to be the latest big shoppers for shoulder-borne Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

In an undercover operation May 5, a narco-terrorism task force based in Miami arrested two Colombians allegedly seeking to buy 120 Stingers and 50 automatic rifles for Pablo Escobar Gaviria, kingpin of the Medellin cocaine cartel.

The defendants remain jailed without bond. No trial date has been set.

It was the first acknowledged coup for the task force, which was formed in September from 14 federal, state and county law enforcement agencies.

The reasons given for the Miami area's role in the arms trade include its proximity to Latin America's drug network, the vast amounts of Latin wealth in Miami banks and available for use, and the region's busy seaports and airports, which make it easier for criminals to move unnoticed.

Authorities suspect the Irish Republican Army not a regular customer in the region, was in the market for a Stinger in West Palm Beach in January.

Authorities here also have investigated purchases of a pilotless drone bombers, anti-tank tow missiles, rockets and plastic explosives.

"South Florida is on the national scale and internationally seen as a tremendous gateway for munitions," said customs spokesman Michael Sheehan. "Here it's just a matter of money, really. In general, if you have the money, you can buy pretty much what you want."

William Gavin, agent in charge of the FBI in Miami, said it's difficult to gauge how many such transactions are going on.

The enforcement response includes Operation Exodus, a customs programme begun in 1981 to target illegal exports of high-tech equipment and munitions.

"With the activities and the crackdown by the government of Colombia, certainly the interest in heavy weaponry — military type — has increased," said Bob Creighton, head of the Miami office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Hampshire College professor Michael Kline, an expert on the arms trade, says that while law enforcement efforts to stem arms dealing are more vigorous in the United States than in many other countries, the issue gets low priority. The national priority for the United States, he said, is preventing the entry of drugs.

'Japan aggressor during world war'

Kaifu admits invasion

TOKYO, May 22. (AP) Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has for the first time referred to Japan as an aggressor during World War II, officials reported today.

"I have never called World War II a holy war for Japan," an official at the parliament's budget division quoted the prime minister as saying yesterday at a budget committee meeting.

"I clearly admit Japan's invasion as the fact," Kaifu added in reply to a question from Yasuko Takemura, a socialist, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Ms Takemura asked Kaifu to explain his view on the war after she suggested that funds allocated for the enthronement of Emperor Akihito this fall go instead to aid Asian countries Japan invaded during World War II.

Kaifu said Japanese aid to Asia is in a different category from the enthronement, budgeted for 8 billion yen (\$52 million).

The official said it was the first time Kaifu referred to Japan as an aggressor in World War II.

The Japanese military took over several Southeast Asian countries during the war, and Japan ruled Korea as a colony from 1910 to 1945.

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo has asked that the emperor apologise during his May 24-26 visit to Japan. But conservatives within Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party have opposed the emperor's making any clear-cut apology.



General Ne Win.



Aung San Suu Kyi

Battle of two personalities

Burma's secretive polls

BANGKOK, May 22. (Reuters) The names of the two main figures in Burma's political battle are not on ballot papers for next Sunday's elections, but they are on everyone's lips.

Diplomats say a vote for the government-backed National Unity Party amounts to a vote for Ne Win, the strongman said to run the secretive military state from behind the scenes.

Those who put their mark by the bamboo hat symbol of the National League for Democracy will show their support for Aung San Suu Kyi, the charismatic opposition leader who has been banned from taking part and is under house arrest.

"They are very much in the minds of people. They are omnipresent in Rangoon. People are always talking about them," said a Western diplomat who follows Burmese events.

The elections are being held 20 months after the military brutally crushed a pro-democracy uprising and assumed power.

Dissidents and Western diplomats say repression and restrictions on the opposition have already made a mockery of the ruling state law and order restoration council's pledge of a "free and fair" elections.

Retired General Ne Win, aged 79, stepped down as anti-government protesters took to the

streets in thousands.

A founder of the Burmese army and a leader of the movement against British colonialism in the 1940s, he seized power in a military coup in 1962 and launched a vision he called the "Burmese way to socialism."

That led to the economic ruin of a country rife in natural resources, self-imposed isolation as much of the rest of Asia began to develop, and ruthless suppression of dissent.

Analysts saw his resignation in the months before the military slaughtered the demonstrators as a ploy. They say he still controls the ruling council from behind the walls of his heavily-guarded compound.

"Ne Win still has the final say. The military looks to him as a father figure," said a diplomat. "He doesn't have a day-to-day role. But the army is full of his appointees. They are weak people and not a threat to him."

Aung San Suu Kyi, the 45-year-old daughter of assassinated independence hero General Aung San, has been under house arrest since last July accused of sowing disunity and encouraging public hatred for the military.

She has been virtually cut off from outside contact since then. Oxford-educated, she has lived much of her life abroad with her British academic husband, Michael Aris.

PKI purge in Indonesia

Ex-US envoy gave names

WASHINGTON, May 22. (AP) A former US diplomat said yesterday he provided authorities in Indonesia with the names of high-ranking communists who were subsequently killed in a purge that terrorised the country.

Robert J. Martens, who served as a political officer at the US embassy in Jakarta in the 1960s, said he gleaned the names of activists from the press of the Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI).

The same reports were available to Indonesia's authorities but they were "disorganised" and did not appear to have the names, said Martens, who serves as an adviser to the State Department.

The party, with 3.5 million members and an additional 17 million or 18 million people affiliated with it, was the largest Communist Party in the world and was active in every level of government and the military.

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No more Everest: Peter Hillary

KATHMANDU, May 22. (AP) The son of the first climber of Mount Everest said yesterday he was glad he had followed in his father's footsteps but that one climb was enough.

Peter Hillary reached the top of Everest on May 10, marking the first time two members of the same family have conquered the world's highest peak.

His father, Sir Edmund Hillary, first scaled Everest 37 years ago and Peter had been trying to climb it for the last eight years. He failed in his three previous attempts due to unfavourable weather and fatigue.

"We did it... indeed this time," Hillary said as he emerged from a helicopter that had brought him from the southern slope of the mountain.

Hillary reached the top of the 29,029-foot (8,848-metre)-high mountain with Robert Hall and Gary Ball, all members of a New Zealand team.

Sir Edmund Hillary was a part of a

British-led expedition that put him and his sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay atop the mountain in 1953.

Asked what inspired him to climb Everest, the younger Hillary said: "It has been a progression as far as I am concerned. I started climbing little rocks and one led to another."

But reaching the top of Everest, Hillary said he was less enthusiastic than when he had started.

"The Himalayas are a serious place. If you don't get down, you are a dead man. The summit is only half the way," he said.

"Now I have done my job on Everest in spite of extreme cold and fatigue, and this means we can move on to some other mountains. But not to that huge mountain again," he said.

The New Zealand team also helped clean up garbage along the mountain's trails in a bid to protect the environment.

Sir Edmund Hillary has said Everest is



Peter Hillary poses with expedition leader Robert Hall on May 21. (Reuters wirephoto) the highest junkyard in the world and years to protect the mountain's fragile ecology.



Students protest

Police arrest a South Korean University student in front of the US embassy in Seoul yesterday after 10 students tried to protest against alleged US role in Kwangju insurrection. (Reuters wirephoto)

Police, students clash in Seoul

Violent anti-US demos

SEOUL, May 22. (AP) Radical students hurled firebombs and rocks at police and burned an American flag today after declaring a week of anti-US protests.

At a news conference at Seoul's Hanyang University, radical student leaders vowed to stage anti-US protests until Sunday.

Police tightened security at US facilities and arrested eight students trying to march on the American embassy with a letter demanding that Washington apologize for its alleged role in supporting dictatorship and condoning the bloody suppression of a 1980 civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

Dozens of riot police immediately surrounded the students and took them away when the protesters, shouting "drive out the Yankees," unfurled a banner demanding a US apology.

In southern Seoul, police fired 23 blanks from an M-16 rifle when about 100 students attacked a police substation with blazing firebombs, shattering windows and torching two motorbikes, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported.

In Kwangju, about 250 km (156 miles) south of Seoul, about 1,300 students battled police after being blocked from marching out of two university campuses.

Some 500 students shouted "Yankies go home" and hurled more than 1,000 firebombs at hundreds of riot police at the city's Chonnam University. Police retaliated by firing volleys of tear gas.

Shortly before nightfall, police fired tear gas to disperse dozens of students trying to hold a street rally after burning a US flag. The students fled into alleys, urging Kwangju citizens to join their anti-US protest.

"We are asking for a formal US apology," said a statement by radical leaders in Seoul. "Unless our demands are met, the United States will be punished."

"We will also seek the spread of anti-US feeling among Koreans through various means during the period and unveil the true character of the United States," the statement said.

They said the open letter to the US embassy demanded that the United States withdraw 43,000 troops stationed in South Korea, withdraw nuclear arms, stop pressuring Seoul to open its markets wider to American imports and recall US Ambassador Donald P. Gregg.

Meanwhile at a hospital morgue in Kwangju, about 500 militants brandishing metal pipes guarded the body of a student activist who suffered fatal head injuries when he jumped from a train to avoid police checkpoints.

The student died last Saturday, when about 20,000 students from across the nation gathered on the Chonnam campus for a rally marking the Kwangju anniversary.

Radical students vowed to send thousands of mourners to the funeral tomorrow of Shin Jang-Ho, 21. Shin was to be celebrated as a martyr and buried in the cemetery where victims of the Kwangju uprising are buried.

Chinese reject Taiwan proposal

BEIJING, May 22. (Reuters) China today bluntly rejected proposals by Taiwan's newly-installed President Lee Teng-Hui to open full relations with Beijing, accusing him of setting impossible conditions.

In its first response to Lee's Sunday, China reiterated its position that Beijing was "the sole, legitimate government representing all Chinese people."

The official New China News Agency said Lee had set "impossible preconditions" by calling on China to change its political and economic systems, commit itself to not using force to recover Taiwan and to allow Taipei to expand its foreign ties.

The agency accused Lee of pursuing a policy of "one country, two governments" and of trying to create "two Chinas".

In a separate development, China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping repeated China's position that Taiwan could keep its own army under Beijing's long-standing "one country, two systems" reunification proposal.

Deng, 85, made the comments to former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt yesterday, according to sources who had access to the private meeting.

Lee's ground-breaking proposals would mean an end to Taiwan's 40-year-old policy towards China known as the "Three No's" — no official contact, no negotiations and no compromise.

Since the defeated Nationalists fled to their island stronghold in 1949 both Beijing and Taipei have claimed to be the sole governments of one China.

China has repeatedly refused to reject the possibility that it will one day use military force to recover the island.

Lee, who came to power in 1988 and was elected to a new term by the Nationalist-dominated electoral college in March, repeated on Sunday a proposal he first made last week to hold government-to-government talks with China.

Beijing replied it would only hold talks on a party-to-party basis.

In its response to Lee's speech, China noted without comment his pledge to end within two years the government's 42-year-old emergency provisions on "suppression of the communist rebellion" which have shored up his Nationalist Party's grip on power.

Despite Taipei's ban on direct investment in China, Taiwanese businessmen are pouring funds into the mainland. In recent years hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese have returned to visit relatives not seen for decades but only a few mainlanders have been allowed to go to Taiwan.

Ex-AP reporter Moosa, 85 dies

TAIPEI, May 22. (AP) Veteran foreign correspondent Spencer Moosa, who worked for the Associated Press and was the last journalist to leave the Chinese mainland when the communists conquered it, has died of lung complications, his family reported yesterday.

Moosa, born in Shanghai, was a correspondent for the AP in China and Taiwan for 29 years, until his retirement in 1968, when he joined the Taiwan tourism bureau.

Release Fang, Li

Scientists ask China

WASHINGTON, May 22. (More than 200 scientists asked the Chinese government yesterday to release dissidents Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuzhan, and threatened to boycott all scientific conferences in China until the human rights activists were freed.

The scientists, led by Soviet physicist Yuri Orlov, also urged the US government to put more pressure on China to free the couple.

The Chinese government accused Fang, an astrophysicist, of inciting the May 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The government has charged Fang and Li are counter-revolutionary criminals and has said they must plead guilty.

Fang and Li, a physics teacher,

have long spoken out for democracy and human rights in China. They took refuge in the US embassy in Beijing in June, and the Chinese government has not allowed them to leave the country.

"We should try to push the opportunistic and insensitive US administration in the right direction," Orlov told a news conference.

President George Bush must decide by June 3 whether to extend most favoured nation trading status to China.

The administration is under pressure from Democrats in Congress and human rights activists to deny the preferential trading status because of China's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

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80 Aids activists held in demo calling for more research

BETHESDA, May 22. (AP) More than 80 Aids activists were arrested at the National Institutes of Health yesterday during a demonstration calling for more Aids research by government scientists.

Nearly a thousand protesters draped red streamers through the trees outside a number of NIH buildings to symbolise the red tape of the bureaucracy that they say is slowing down work to find a cure for Aids.

The demonstrators moved from building to building, chanting slogans and erecting cardboard

head stones on the lawns of some of the buildings.

Bob Shriver, a spokesman for the National Institutes of Health, said about 60 people were arrested on trespassing charges at the main Bethesda campus. He estimated the crowd at about 900. At the Rockville office of the director of Aids research for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 21 demonstrators were arrested on loitering charges, Montgomery county police said.

Police said the demonstrators had the

option of paying a \$50 fine or requesting a court date.

Mark Harrington of the New York-based Aids coalition to unleash power, Aet Up, said the activists want NIH to put more emphasis on drugs that fight the opportunistic infections that kill Aids patients, whose immune systems are weakened by the disease.

Ten candles burned in the upstairs windows at the White House on Sunday night, a signal of Barbara Bush's support for an international Aids memorial.

Iliescu winning

Fraud allegations made

BUCHAREST, Romania, May 22, (AP): As interim President Ion Iliescu headed for a landslide victory today in Romania's election, one of his opponents contended the vote was marred by fraud and said he would challenge the results in court.

The legitimacy of Iliescu's huge win also was challenged by an observer for Western Europe's powerful conservative and Christian Democrat par-

ties.

Ion Ratiu, presidential candidate of the National Peasants Party, made the vote-fraud allegations when early results showed him lagging far behind Iliescu, a former communist, in the voting for president. Iliescu has been interim president since a popular revolution ousted longtime dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December.

With 11.9 million ballots counted by noon (0900 GMT) today, Iliescu had 86.2 percent of the vote in the three-way presidential contest, according to the Central Electoral Bureau. Radu Campeanu of the National Liberal Party had 10.1 per cent and Ratiu had 3.7 per cent.

More than 85 per cent of the 16 million eligible voters cast ballots in election, the first in which people had a choice in decades.

Iliescu said in an interview with the French television network TF1 that he and his National Salvation Front would seek a coalition with the opposition, but his opponents reacted cautiously to the offer.

Collaborate

"Under current circumstances it's not the case to collaborate with the Front," Campeanu told the Associated Press. "Perhaps only if Iliescu adopts a platform that is 100 per cent liberal."

Ratiu told the AP: "Under my presidency, I would have liked to have seen exactly that... I would like to know what he's talking about. I haven't had any approach from anybody."

Ratiu said he would contest the elections even if the vote swung in his favour. "We definitely charge that massive fraud has been committed," he said.

A National Liberal Party official also claimed the election was riddled with fraud.

"We will demand the outcome of these elections be declared void," said Sorio Botez, the party's foreign relations secretary, in a telephone interview.

Iliescu had been heavily favoured to win the election. The charismatic 60-year-old is credited with helping overthrow Ceausescu and implementing measures to help Romania's large peasant and working classes.

Iliescu and the National Salvation Front are likely to become the first ex-communists in Eastern Europe to triumph in the region's current multi-party elections.

Electoral Bureau results for the two-chamber parliament gave the Front about 68.87 per cent, the Liberals 6.3 per cent, the Peasants 2.2 per cent, the Ecological Movement 2.4 per cent.

The Hungarian Democratic Union received nearly 7.33 per cent and was trailing behind the Front, apparently winning broad allegiance from Romania's 2 million ethnic Hungarians. The other votes went to tiny parties.

Disagree

Election observers disagreed over whether Sunday's balloting was free and fair.

Various observer groups reported instances of ballots being pre-stamped for Iliescu, Front members accompanying elderly voters into the election booths, non-registered voters casting ballots and individuals voting several times.

The European Parliament's observer delegation said the results could be accepted, but that the contest could not be viewed as a normal election by Western standards.

"If the results are confirmed this doesn't seem to be the result of a pluralist system and this worries me," said Adelaide Aglietta, a lawmaker from Italy's Green Party. "I think people here have not been helped to see what democracy means. They still see opposition parties as the enemy and they don't know what political dialogue is."

Losing presidential candidate Ion Ratiu, on Monday branding Sunday's elections a massive fraud, said chief US observer Garry Carruthers had "no idea what Romania is like."

"He did not take the trouble to go round and have a look," the 72-year-old National Peasant Party candidate said, claiming some 100 examples of election irregularities by the victorious National Front, whom he regards as closet communists.

Carruthers said yesterday that allegations of fraud must be assessed before the United States determines whether the election was free.

"Everybody's got an angle. No doubt about that," says Vern Freeth, vice president of International Affairs for Minnesota-based Land O' Lakes Inc., a food processing and farm supply co-operative. "We all want to meet him."

Since it was announced last week that Gorbachev will spend six hours in Minnesota on



Iliescu gestures during an interview with Reuters in the government building in Bucharest, May 21. (Reuters wirephoto)



Carruthers, the governor of New Mexico, addresses a press conference May 21 in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

New UN appointment: Yuliy M. Vorontsov was appointed Soviet permanent representative to the UN and Soviet representative to its Security Council with the rank of deputy foreign minister, it was announced Monday.

Vorontsov will present his credentials Tuesday to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He replaced Aleksandr Belousov who was relieved of his duties to become deputy foreign minister. (Reuters)

France to host CSCE summit: France said on Tuesday it had been chosen to host a summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Plans to stage the summit late this year would depend on the progress of negotiations on cutting conventional military forces, President Francois Mitterrand's spokesman told reporters.

"The only certainty today is that Paris has been chosen as the venue for the summit," Hubert Vedrine said, ending months of speculation. (Reuters)

US Lockerbie report unfair: A Pan Am executive said on Monday a top-level US report last week on the December 1988 bombing of a Jumbo jet over the Scottish town Lockerbie had treated the airline very unfairly.

Pan Am senior vice-president Peter McHugh said he disagreed with the report's finding that the airline could have done something to prevent the bombing, in which 270 people died.

"I don't think there is anything that could have been done that day at the airport to stop that bomb getting on board," McHugh told reporters in London.

The seven-member US presidential commission on aviation security and terrorism, in its May 15 report, put much of the blame for the bombing on a "seriously flawed" aviation security system. (Reuters)

Prague reds stripped of property: The government on Monday stripped the once ruling communists of all property granted them for permanent use over the past four decades.

The decision followed a move Friday to freeze all buildings and other fixed assets owned by the communists, who were ousted from power in a peaceful revolution last winter.

The moves were likely to be highly popular in Czechoslovakia, where up to 100,000 people have attended recent street rallies calling for the communists to give up their property and even urging a ban on the party in the coming free elections.

But another government move Monday seemed likely to get a more mixed reception. (AP)

5 held for graffiti: Police in eastern France have arrested five people for painting anti-Semitic graffiti in separate incidents at a synagogue and a Jewish cemetery.

Three teenagers were due to appear in court Tuesday in Colmar, France, for painting graffiti reading "long live Hitler and Dachau" on the walls of a Jewish cemetery May 4.

The incident came a week before mourners discovered that 34 graves had been defiled and a corpse mutilated at the Jewish cemetery at Carpentras in southern France.

The youths, arrested over the weekend, reportedly told police that they were inspired by hatred for "foreigners." (AP)

Poles tried to bug Pope: Polish secret police tried to bug the room used by Pope John Paul II when he visited the country's holiest shrine in 1979, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Lithuania should negotiate

Dubcek ends Soviet trip

MOSCOW, May 22, (AP): Alexander Dubcek, ousted from power by Soviet tanks in Czechoslovakia 22 years ago, said yesterday that Lithuania should negotiate its independence with Moscow and neither side should provoke the use of force.

Dubcek, one of three senior officials in the democratically elected Czechoslovak government, ended a four-day official visit, his first since 1968, with a meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He told a news conference that time and patience would be needed to resolve the impasse between the Baltic Republic and the Kremlin.

Dubcek said Lithuania's declaration of independence was "something that happened in such a way that solution is not possible today, but will be possible tomorrow."

Although every nation has the right to self-determination, he said, Lithuania and the Soviet

Union should look for "optimum solutions and compromise to settle the issue and arrive at a transition period during which emotions die down."

Both sides, Dubcek said, "should not lose patience, and avoid any possible conflict."

As head of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in 1968, Dubcek led the "Prague Spring" reform movement that was viewed as a dangerous counter-revolution by Kremlin hardliners.



Dubcek (left) meets Gorbachev at the Kremlin May 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nato to reject Soviet demand

BRUSSELS, May 22, (UPI): Nato allies are rejecting a new Soviet demand that troops levels of a united Germany be limited in the context of talks on German unification, Nato diplomats said today.

The Soviets want a separate agreement limiting the size of German armed forces, which would then be incorporated into overall talks on conventional forces in Europe, or CFE, talks, the diplomats said.

Nato countries find the Soviet position unacceptable. "We don't want Germany or any other Nato country singled out separately," said one Nato official. "The CFE talks and German unification are two separate negotiations."

West Germany is a member of Nato while East Germany is a member of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. Moscow has opposed a unified Germany being part of Nato and has called for a neutral Germany.

Another Nato official said the new Soviet demand for limiting German troop levels during unification talks "is just another bargaining position."

Nato defence ministers met in Brussels today to launch a two-day meeting of the alliance's defence planning committee, which will help prepare for a July summit of Nato heads of state in London.

After the first CFE treaty is finalised, we could discuss German troop levels as part of a global view in CFE II, but not separately at this time," a Nato official said.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Nato officials reacted coolly to the Soviet demand, put to US Secretary of State James Baker in Moscow last week, that such limits be discussed in the so-called "two-plus-four" talks on security aspects of German unification.

Senior US officials who travelled with Baker told Nato ambassadors in Brussels about the demand yesterday.

Foreign ministers of the two Germanys and the four World War II allied powers — the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union — are due to meet next month in East Berlin.

"The Soviets consider that the size of the German armed forces is an important part of the security equation in Europe and they want limits set before this round of CFE is completed," said one Nato diplomat.

Cheney told reporters ahead of defence minister meeting that the question must be discussed within the framework of the Vienna CFE talks — but not in the current round, which focuses only on US and Soviet troops levels.

"We've never supported the proposition that German troops levels should be singled out any more than those of any other member of the Nato alliance," he said.

Cheney said Moscow had slowed down the Vienna CFE negotiations, partly because of fears about the military might of a united Germany.

"The Soviets have said they are not happy with this idea and that is why they are dragging their feet in Vienna at the moment," said one official. "They want limits on German forces discussed now. We don't."

Soviet leaders told Baker in Moscow that a United Germany could not join Nato and their hands were tied over the Lithuanian crisis, alliance sources said.

Baltic presidents in Moscow for talks

Lithuania rejects suspension of declaration

MOSCOW, May 22, (AP): The presidents of Estonia and Latvia met today with advisers to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss steps the Baltic republics have taken toward independence, an Estonian spokesman said.

In Lithuania, the parliament met to consider a new offer to the Kremlin aimed at breaking its impasse with Moscow over its March 11 declaration of independence, a parliamentary spokesman said.

A strike by pro-Moscow forces in Estonia went into its second day, with workers at two more plants joining the protest against the

republic's independence drive, a strike committee spokesman said.

Finnish radio reported that a strike among members of Estonia's ethnic Russian minority had prompted the owners of the ferry boat "Georg Otis" to suspend service between its home base of Helsinki and Tallinn, the capital of Estonia.

The Lithuanian cabinet has rejected any idea of suspending the rebel Baltic republic's independence declaration to placate the Kremlin, a Lithuanian government spokesman said today.



We are on strike

Workers pin up a poster at the entrance to the Dvigatel plant which reads "We are on strike" May 21. Workers at several factories went on strike and rallied outside the parliamentary building after the Estonian government failed to meet their demands. (Reuters wirephoto)

Budapest urges talks on pullout

BUDAPEST, May 22, (AP): The foreign affairs committee of Hungary's Parliament called for speedy negotiations on the country's possible withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, the state news agency MTI said.

The designated foreign and defence ministers of the new centre-right government to be sworn in later today already have told parliamentary committees reviewing their appointments that Hungary will aim at leaving the Warsaw Pact.

The question of Hungary's membership in the Soviet bloc military alliance was raised earlier this month by the leading opposition group, the League of Free Democrats.

They demanded that Parliament debate a declaration on leaving the pact that was issued during the failed 1956 revolt against the Soviets. Full parliamentary debate was postponed on the issue.

MTI said the foreign affairs committee called on the new government of premier-designate Jozsef Antall to launch negotiations "on the relationship between the Warsaw treaty and Hungary ... as soon as possible."

The committee suggested bilateral negotiations should take place with the six other members of the Pact — the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Bulgaria and Romania, MTI said.

Lithuania said today hot water supplies to homes would be cut off from Friday because of fuel shortages caused by the Kremlin's economic embargo.

The spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius that a cabinet meeting yesterday had come out against suspending the March 11 declaration.

The three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and are in varying stages of efforts to become independent of Moscow's control.

Presidents Arnold Rumbelis of Estonia and Anatoly Gorbunov of Latvia met this morning with members of Gorbachev's Federation Council, an advisory body to the nation's republics and nationalities, said Andrei Birzok, a spokesman for the Estonian mission in Moscow.

He said the two Baltic leaders could possibly meet later with Gorbachev, but no meeting had been scheduled. Birzok said the meeting with the Federation Council was underway but he had no further details.

Last week, Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimieras Prunskis met with Gorbachev. The Soviet President urged her to suspend the republic's declaration of independence as a step toward continuing talks to resolve Lithuania's confrontation with the Kremlin.

In the Estonian capital of Tallinn, workers at 22 enterprises have now struck to press demands that Rumbelis resign and that laws making Soviet power in Estonia unlawful be annulled, said Viktor Tsunya, a member of the Russian strike committee.

Pre-summit talks to cut nuclear weapons

Soviet arms experts for Washington

Summit bad for Soviet army

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is sending arms experts to Washington later in the week to resume pre-summit negotiations to cut long-range nuclear weapons.

The negotiators will take up a half-dozen issues but were not resolved when US Secretary of State James A. Baker III was in Moscow last week. The aim is to settle as many as they can before Gorbachev arrives May 30 for summit talks with President George Bush.

The Bush administration is not tipping its hand about its priorities before the talks begin, tomorrow or Thursday at the State Department. But one of the main US objectives is to keep the Soviets from improving their powerful SS-18 nuclear missiles.

As part of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the Soviets already have agreed to reduce their arsenal of 308 of these land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles by 50 per cent to 154.

The Bush administration would like to halt improvements in the missiles that will remain, but is reluctant to accept curbs on its own arsenal of multi-warhead ballistic missiles carried aboard nuclear submarines.

Other unsettled issues include how many land-based mobile missiles would be allowed, whether the Soviet backfire bomber should be regulated and how to verify compliance with a start treaty.

Another tough issue — restricting nuclear-tipped, cruise missiles — was resolved during the four days of talks Baker held in Moscow.

That breakthrough involved a tradeoff. Baker accepted the range limitations proposed by the Soviets on cruise missiles carried aboard airplanes while the Soviets agreed to exclude the new US tacti Rainbow air-to-surface missile from any restraint.

Also, the Soviets gave in to the US demand that there be no inspection of cruise missiles carried aboard submarines.

Baker's trip also produced a

MOSCOW, May 22, (Reuters): The Soviet Union goes into the latest superpower summit with its military, once a central pillar of the party and state, battered and vulnerable.

Western diplomats say the Soviet military machine has been steadily undermined by President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms. It has lost its stronghold on defence policy, is spurned across Eastern Europe, and discredited at home.

Civilian experts, their access no longer barred to most military information, are pulling the levers of power in the debate on weapons systems and policy.

Under the new presidential system, Gorbachev is now commander-in-chief and the revamped parliament is busy with military reform. One proposal provides for a complete overhaul of the military, including strong civilian control and a professional army.

At the same time, the military budget is being plundered to pay for domestic economic reforms, its production capacity steadily shifted to consumer goods.

Soviet troop strength in Eastern Europe is being slashed as Moscow backs off the use of force in foreign policy. Huge bases and natural lines of defence in the restive Baltic republics are under assault by pro-independence local governments.

Draft resistance is also running at record levels.

"The military's old secure position is now under open assault," said a Western diplomat. "The armed forces as a social and political institution are in trouble."

Military experts in Moscow say that with the Soviet defence establishment in retreat at home and abroad, the May 30-June 3 summit could not come at a worse time.

"The military can only go to the summit wondering what the damn diplomats will give away," said one Western military expert, based in Moscow. "There is little they can do to really alter the process."

A Western diplomat with wide contacts in the Soviet armed forces said: "The military is no longer in control of three basic issues — defining the threat, arms control and allocation of resources."

At a speech in the Ural City of Nizhny Tagil, Gorbachev singled out the military's 18 per cent share of Gross National Product, stating publicly a figure before used only by experts and foreign analysts.

A Soviet television report at the time said 75 per cent of all scientific and technological potential was concentrated in military sector, suggesting drastic change was inevitable.

But the experts say they have seen signs of second thoughts with a tougher Soviet line on arms control and a brief measure of symbolic support for the military from the Kremlin.

500 pages. Even if all key issues are settled it will take several months, at least, to complete it.

The START treaty would cut US and Soviet strategic nuclear weapons by 30 per cent to 15 per cent.

Work in Vienna on another treaty to cut US and Soviet troops, tanks, artillery, airplanes and helicopters in Europe had slowed down.

The Soviets are reluctant to pull 600,000 soldiers out of Central Europe until they are assured the German army also will be sharply reduced.

Minneapolis residents trying to cash in on Gorbachev visit

MINNEAPOLIS, May 22, (AP): The T-shirts are printed up, the vodka billboards are coming down and the invitations to take Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev fishing or bear-watching don't seem to stop.

"Everybody's got an angle. No doubt about that," says Vern Freeth, vice president of International Affairs for Minnesota-based Land O' Lakes Inc., a food processing and farm supply co-operative. "We all want to meet him."

Since it was announced last week that Gorbachev will spend six hours in Minnesota on

June 3, Gov. Rudy Perpich's office has been swamped with requests to meet the Soviet leader. Hundreds of people have offered gifts or tributes, and entrepreneurs quickly kicked in with T-shirts and a "tell it to Gorbachev" button.

Gorbachev wants to spend two hours talking with agricultural and business leaders to build on longstanding economic ties between the Soviet Union and Minnesota.

Perpich said yesterday that a final schedule has not been determined but that Gorbachev's visit will probably include an address at

a rally at the capitol in St Paul.

The rest of his six-hour visit remained up for grabs. At least that's what the callers hoped.

"We've been receiving hundreds of phone calls every day," said Eileen Biernat, a Perpich aide.

A man who can call black bears out of the woods to meet with tourists offered to summon bears so Gorbachev can have his picture taken with them. And the Brezzy Point city council thinks Gorbachev would enjoy an hour or two of walleye fishing.

Left-leaning allies lead

Azad Kashmir election

MUZZAFARABAD, Pakistan, May 22, (AP): A militant coalition led a left-leaning alliance headed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party in provincial elections yesterday that centred on a Muslim uprising in Indian-held Kashmir.

With 37 of 39 races decided for the assembly in Pakistan's Kashmir province, Benazir's Pakistan People's Party and its allies won 13 seats, while the incumbent All Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference and its smaller allied parties captured 17, according to results released by the election commission.

The remaining seats went to independents and smaller parties that will decide who forms the next government, the commission said.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

their chests, lined the streets. Boys fired pistols and revolvers in the air.

"Farooq's blood will bear fruit. We will attain independence," they shouted.

As the funeral cortege reached the cemetery, established this year to bury the people killed by Indian security forces during the rebellion in Kashmir, militants set off 11 bombs at the far end of the prayer ground.

The crowd seemed to be expecting the blast and bowed their heads. Then they screamed independence slogans.

Farooq's son Umar announced over loudspeakers that his father's last wish was for "Kashmir to unite in the fight for independence."

An estimated 40 to 50 militant youths who had mingled in the crowd fired Kalashnikov rifles and revolvers in the air after Umar Farooq's announcement. The firing continued for 10 minutes until the coffin was buried.

The identities of the three gunmen who pumped at least 15 bullets into Farooq were not known. Some of his aides blamed the assassination on right-wing Hindus, while government officials blamed it on Muslim militants who thought Farooq was too moderate.

The militants denied they killed Farooq. Known supporters or representatives of several groups, including the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front and the Hizbul Mujahadeen, took the microphone at Islamabad College to tell mourners they were not responsible.

"Who killed Moulvi Farooq?" shouted a man through a megaphone. "Jannahan," the crowd yelled in unison.

Armed militants told reporters most of the secessionist groups were present at the funeral. "This death has united us," said one.

Farooq had long advocated a political settlement for Kashmir, but in recent months called for independence.

India's regular army troops were on stand-by today in Srinagar but were not deployed on the streets.

"We are keeping watch over the situation," said Hamidullah Khan, chief secretary of law and order for Jammu-Kashmir, in a telephone interview.

In New Delhi, Indian Home



Farooq (right), with supporters in Srinagar's mosque at Friday prayers, just three days before being shot dead by gunmen on Monday (Reuters wirephoto)

Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed told Parliament that militants mingling in the crowd of mourners had opened fire first on the security forces.

People in the crowd, however, charged that the first shots they heard were from the security men.

During the parliamentary debate on the assassination of the chief priest, Prime Minister Viswanath Pratap Singh said:

"There is a very deep rooted conspiracy across the border. There is a design to tear our country apart."

In Pakistan-controlled Kashmir political wheeling and dealing today overshadowed a prayer service for Moulvi Farooq.

Hundreds of people gathered at Muzaffarabad's sprawling university campus to offer prayers for Farooq.

Pakistan's president and prime minister both condemned the murder of Moulvi Farooq.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is in the Libyan capital Tripoli, said in a message released in Islamabad yesterday she was profoundly shocked at the "dastardly assassination."

Benazir, who is touring Islamic countries to bolster support for Kashmiri "freedom fighters" battling Indian rule, said Farooq's murder would strengthen the resolve of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in struggle for self-determination.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, condemning the shooting, said Farooq was an outstanding Islamic scholar who had dedicated his life to the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir.

Before the first results were announced, the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation League, which is aligned with Benazir's party, said a special fund would be created to provide weapons and training for the militants streaming across the border seeking military help.

"We will not hesitate. We are ready for war with India," Khwaja Farooq Ahmed, the party's general secretary, said as supporters lifted him on their shoulders.

Others shouting, "Long live Bhutto, long live Ahmed" fired Kalashnikov rifles into the air. Dozens of soldiers watched nearby from jeeps outfitted with machine-guns.

The president of Azad (free) Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, accused Benazir's party of using millions of rupees (hundreds of thousands of dollars) and strong tribal connections to secure votes.

"It's a pity we're facing a threat of war with India and the PPP is trying to divide the people," he said.

Political analysts say whatever the outcome, the prime minister could be forced to provide money and arms to the militants or face violent protests.

"Both sides agree on one issue — arming and training their Muslim brethren — and both appear confident that she won't be able to stop them for long," said one Western diplomat in Islamabad, referring to supporters of the separatists in Indian Kashmir. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity.

At least five people were killed and several injured in gunbattles during yesterday's elections, state officials said.

Rival groups, blamed each other for the clashes in the charged atmosphere caused by Pakistan's bitter row with India over a Muslim uprising in neighbouring Indian Kashmir.

Three people were killed in the territory's most populous Mirpur district in gunbattles outside polling stations, the deputy commissioner of the area said.

Qayyum said earlier one person was killed in Muzaffarabad and another in Kotli district. He blamed PPP for most of the clashes.

PPP activists blamed armed followers of Qayyum's AJKMC party. Gunbattles were also reported from several other places but details were sketchy. The elections have been held against a background of high tension between India and Pakistan over the secessionist campaign in India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Ershad to run for new term

DHAKA, May 22, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who took power more than eight years ago in a military coup, said today he would seek a new five-year term in elections due next year.

He said a new term would allow his government to continue its development programmes in economic, social and educational fields.

"I shall be a candidate again in the presidential election next year and shall come again to seek your support," he told a political rally near Baraguna town in southern Bangladesh.

"My presence in the government will ensure continuity," he said.

Ershad won by a landslide in a 1986 presidential election that was boycotted by major opposition parties.

The opposition later alleged that the president, who came to power in a 1982 coup against a democratically-elected government, had rigged the ballot.

Opposition parties have demanded that Ershad step down and let a caretaker government take over to ensure a fair poll. They also want parliamentary elections before the presidential vote.

Ershad shrugged off both demands. "What we are going to have next year is the presidential election, because that's what our constitution tells us to do," he told the rally.



Election ride

Political activists riding a pick-up truck wave automatic weapons in Muzaffarabad during state elections, in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir May 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sind violence rages

Five killed in Karachi; curfew in Hyderabad

KARACHI, May 22, (Reuters): Five people were killed in ethnic violence today in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, doctors said.

Four of them were shot by gunmen and the fifth died when paramilitary forces trying to control the violence opened fire, they said. The nearby city of Hyderabad, where gunbattles between rival ethnic groups killed 10 people yesterday, was under curfew and was reported quiet.

Ethnic strife in the southern province of Sind, of which Karachi is the capital, has now claimed more than 70 lives this month. The main opposition alliance has urged President Ghulam Ishaq

Khan to suspend the provincial government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and declare a state of emergency in Sind.

Ishaq Khan dismissed the demand, telling reporters that the provincial government had made plans to deal effectively with the situation. Karachi and Hyderabad have been frequently hit by ethnic violence, often between Urdu-speaking Mohajir immigrants from India and Pashtuns from northwestern Pakistan or between Mohajirs and native Sindhis.

"The lives and properties of all Pakistanis living in Sind have been rendered totally insecure. Business is suffering... and the city of Hyderabad is under attack of rocket launchers," the opposition parties said in a statement.

"Private militias under the command of Pakistan People's Party and members of the prime minister's family are being organised and the government of Sind, instead of discharging itself of its duties, seems to be leading the province straight into civil war," it said.

Tens of thousands of riot police, paramilitary troops and soldiers have been patrolling the streets. Monday's clash erupted when police surrounded the house of an MQM worker and tried to search it, police said. Supporters started firing from their houses and rooftops and the battle continued for nearly two hours, police said.

Jeay Sind supporters, protesting against the arrest of radical Sind nationalist Qadir Magsi, stopped buses near the city on Sunday and killed two passengers. The main targets in Hyderabad and rural areas of Sind appeared to be the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs.

In Karachi, two students died in a clash between Mohajirs and militant PPP supporters at St Patrick's College. A third person died in a separate incident.

A powerful bomb hidden under a parked car exploded in a crowded marketplace in Peshawar seriously injuring eight people, police said.

The bomb made with 6 kilograms (12 pounds) of explosives went off at 4 pm (150 GMT) outside a hotel in the Shoba Bazaar, the city's busiest shopping area, police said.

Dozens of villages are still cut off after the May 9 cyclone, which struck with 240 kph (150 mph) winds and whipped up seven-metre (23 foot) tidal waves. Officials from the Cyclone Control Centre said the death toll could pass 1,000.

About 8.8 million people in 54 towns and 5,165 villages were affected by the cyclone, one of the worst in India in a decade. The officials estimated property damage at rupees 7.15 billion (\$420 million) and losses include about 310,000 hectares (745,000 acres) of orchards, and rice, grain and sugar cane crops.

He appointed his son to replace him in Haryana. But Chautala had to win a seat in the state legislature to keep his new job.

Chautala ran in Haryana's Mehmed district, but attempts to hold elections on Feb 28 and March 1 resulted in widespread violence and eight killings. Newspapers blamed Chautala, and the national Election Commission disqualified the ballots.

Rajiv Gandhi

Chautala forced to resign as CM

NEW DELHI, May 22, (AP): Prime Minister V. P. Singh today demanded the resignation of opposition leader and ex-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi as pressure from separatist movements magnified political infighting.

"Uproarious scenes" of shouting burst out in the lower house of Parliament after Singh called on Rajiv to resign, United News of India reported.

Om Prakash Chautala, 55, was forced to resign from his post as chief minister of Haryana state after a dozen people were killed in two recent election campaigns in his own constituency.

Chautala is the son of Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. The flamboyant, 75-year-old Devi Lal, known for his huge green turban, is a fixture in the political dealing that drives this nation of 880 million people.

Devi Lal calls himself the "uncle" of the Janata Dal Party, the strongest in Singh's National Front coalition.

Chautala's resignation, ordered by Janata Dal's leadership, appeared destined to create more rifts in the uneasy alliance of left, right and centre parties in the governing coalition.

In the upper house, chairman Shankar Dayal Sharma "broke down and wept uncontrollably" during a heated debate on the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, where Muslim rebels want independence. Press Trust of India reported.

The political crisis comes as the Singh government faces challenges from violent separatist movements in the states of Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab. The Muslim rebellion in Kashmir has brought India's relations with Pakistan to their lowest point since the last of their three wars was fought in 1971.

In an apparent attempt to deflect attention from the crisis in his own party, Prime Minister Singh today demanded the Rajiv follow Chautala's example and resign his parliamentary seat.

Rajiv should step down on "moral" grounds, Singh told Parliament, saying that the former prime minister should take responsibility for last year's election violence in his own district of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh state.

The Election Commission ordered a partial re-polling in Amethi last November after accusations that Rajiv supporters had rigged the vote. Rajiv went on to win, but his part lost power.

Preliminary charges of attempted murder were filed last week against Satish Sharma, a close friend and aide to Rajiv, in the shooting of Sanjay Singh, a local campaign manager for Prime Minister Singh. Sanjay Singh was wounded during the Amethi voting.

Congress Party officials have called the charges a "conspiracy" and a "witch-hunt."

A Western diplomat said he believed Devi Lal would attempt to "punish the party" for forcing his son to resign.

"This is nepotism. Devi Lal views an attack on his son as an attack on himself," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "He's ready to fight and doesn't seem to care about the government as a whole."

On Monday night, Devi Lal boycotted a meeting at the prime minister's house where the decision to oust Chautala was made.

"I did not attend," Devi Lal told Press Trust of India. "That should make my view quite clear."

He appointed his son to replace him in Haryana. But Chautala had to win a seat in the state legislature to keep his new job.

Chautala ran in Haryana's Mehmed district, but attempts to hold elections on Feb 28 and March 1 resulted in widespread violence and eight killings. Newspapers blamed Chautala, and the national Election Commission disqualified the ballots.

Rajiv Gandhi



Indian soldiers prevent the crowds mourning the death of the Muslim chief priest of Kashmir valley, Moulvi Farooq from bringing out a procession in violation of curfew orders in Srinagar. (Reuters wirephoto)

OIC raps India

Total solidarity with Pakistan

JEDDAH, May 22, (Reuters): The 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) today condemned the killing of 47 people in Kashmir by Indian security forces and urged India to stop what it called the "wave of terror against Muslims there."

"We strongly condemn this criminal act as well as the inhuman repressive methods used by the Indian authorities in their futile attempt to block the spontaneous uprising of the people of Kashmir," OIC Secretary-General Hamid Algabid said in a statement sent to Reuters.

The civilians were killed in the

Kashmir city of Srinagar on Monday when Indian security forces opened fire on mourners escorting the body of a murdered Muslim cleric. Three hundred people were reported wounded in the shooting.

Al Gabid said any settlement of the issue in the disputed territory should lead to self-determination to the Muslims in Kashmir.

Al Gabid said the OIC, which represents nearly one billion Muslims, "reaffirms the total solidarity with Pakistan, which he said was facing threats from India."

Police kill student

DHAKA, May 22, (Reuters): One student was killed and 10 were injured when police fired on crowds trying to storm a school examination centre in southern Bangladesh, police said today. The crowds were demanding students be allowed to cheat on tests.

Police told reporters they fired in self-defence after groups of students and their relatives attacked policemen with home-made bombs and rocks yesterday near the port of Chittagong.

The death of the 18-year-old student, whose name was not released, followed several violent clashes this month between police and students who have demonstrated in support of their right to cheat on tests to qualify for university.

Widespread cheating is a regular feature in Bangladesh school, college and university examinations despite frequent attempts to eliminate it.

Hundreds of policemen guarded the courthouse as the demonstrators, nearly 10,000 of them women, shouted insults at Monir Hossain, who is accused in the publicised case.

Judge Serajul Islam convicted Hossain, 32, of murdering his wife, Rima, 25, drawing shouts of cheer from thousands of women demonstrators.

The judge also convicted Hosnara Khuku, one of Monir's lovers and accomplices in the crime. The exact sentence was not immediately known.

Rima Hossain was killed April 9 as the couple was returning from the port city of Chittagong, where they had gone to settle marital differences. She was the daughter of a prominent journalist who died in detention in a Pakistan jail during Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971.

Major newspapers in the country carried special editions yesterday after the verdict was delivered. The case was prominently featured in newspapers throughout the 20 days of hearings.

Dhaka businessman convicted of killing his wife

DHAKA, May 22, (UPI): More than 100,000 demonstrators outside a courthouse yesterday demanded death for a millionaire businessman accused of killing his wife in a case seen as a barometer of justice for hundreds of women who die in suspicious circumstances.

Hundreds of policemen guarded the courthouse as the demonstrators, nearly 10,000 of them women, shouted insults at Monir Hossain, who is accused in the publicised case.

Judge Serajul Islam convicted Hossain, 32, of murdering his wife, Rima, 25, drawing shouts of cheer from thousands of women demonstrators.

Tamil strike shuts Jaffna

COLOMBO, May 22, (AP): Shops and offices were closed and streets deserted in several towns in northeastern Sri Lanka yesterday following a general strike called by Tamil rebels, officials said.

The strike was announced Sunday by the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to protest the government's plan to repatriate 100,000 Tamil tea plantation workers to India.

Residents of northern Jaffna town, contacted by telephone, said taxis, buses, private cars and motorbikes went off the streets.

Only a few people on bicycles and Tamil Tigers patrolling the town in jeeps were seen, said the residents speaking on condition of anonymity.

Military officials in Colombo, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said the strike was also successful in Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mannar and Ampara towns.

The workers proposed to be repatriated are descendants of labourers brought from southern India to Sri Lanka. The workers still hold Indian citizenship although their families have lived in Sri Lanka for several generations.

More than 90 per cent of Sri Lanka's 600,000 tea and rubber plantation workers trace their origin to India.

Most of these Tamils live on the plantations in the centre of the island and were not drawn into the northeastern insurrection by Sri Lankan Tamils whose ancestors arrived from India.

A part of the internationally famous bird sanctuary, Kumana, in the eastern province of Sri Lanka was being cleared by the most powerful of the northern-based Tamil militant groups — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to build an explosives factory, according to security sources.



A youth stands near a post office vehicle in Thabong on May 21. (Reuter wirephoto)



Children dressed in the uniforms of the neo-Nazi Atrikener Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) stand to attention on May 21, during the funeral of the white mining official. (Reuter wirephoto)



Khaki-clad members of AWB make a 21-shot pistol salute on May 21 over the grave of the mining official. (Reuter wirephoto)

De Klerk begins Swiss talks

Call to end violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, May 22, (AP): Nelson Mandela said the killing of seven blacks by police was a "massacre" and warned that efforts to end apartheid will collapse unless the government ends violence by the security forces.

The African National Congress leader denounced the government yesterday after police opened fire Sunday on protesters at Welkom in the Orange Free State. Mandela said the killings cast doubt on the white government's commitment to keep its promises of major reform.

"The government must not talk of negotiations and peace and expect us to join in. The massacre of innocent people is inexcusable," Mandela said on his return from a visit to Zimbabwe.

Mandela said the government must curb the security forces and end a growing wave of violence that has claimed hundreds of lives in recent months.

"The responsibility to end violence is that of the government," he said.

The ANC and the government of President F.W. de Klerk are engaged in talks on ending white-minority rule and sharing political power with South Africa's black majority. Mandela threatened to call off the talks when police killed black protesters in March, but later relented.

Police commanders said Welkom was tense but quite today with dozens of heavily-armed police patrolling the area. Police said they were forced to open fire Sunday when hundreds of black protesters attempted to march from the black township to the white town.

Welkom has been the scene of several bloody confrontations between blacks and right-wing whites opposed to the government's plans to abolish apartheid and end white-minority rule. Extreme right-wingers have formed uniformed, para-military "white defence" groups in the area.

Meanwhile, Mangosuthu Buthezi called on Mandela in a statement today to meet with him to find ways to end violence to Natal province. Several thousand blacks have died in recent years in fighting between Buthezi's Inkatha group and ANC-backed groups.

"I can think of no two leaders who could make a greater impact in standing together to shame violence than Mandela and myself," Buthezi said.

A previous plan for talks in March between Buthezi and Mandela collapsed after protests by some ANC leaders who did not want any dealings with Ink-

Africa

Executed Ethiopian generals identified: The twelve generals executed for staging last year's abortive coup included some of Ethiopia's most distinguished military leaders.

The official Ethiopian news agency announced the executions Monday evening without saying when or how they had been carried out. The 12 had been convicted of treason Saturday by a special court martial.

Among them was Maj. Gen. Hailu Gebre-Michael, 57, commander of all ground forces; his deputy, Maj. Gen. Alemayehu Desta, 55, and the air force chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Solomon Beggashaw, 54.

Also executed were the commanders of the police and armed forces staff colleges, Maj. Gen. Wotku Zewdie, 58, and Brig. Gen. Desalegne Abebe, 53; two other air force generals and five army corps commanders.

The other air force officers were Brig. Gen. Tesfu Desta, 46, chief of operations; and Brig. Gen. Ghenanaw Mengistu, 47, commander of a squadron based in the capital. (AP)

Student massacre in Zaire: A reliable Belgian newspaper, quoting a direct witness, reported today that more than 50 Zaire students opposing the Mobutu regime, had been killed by soldiers 10 days ago in Lubumbashi.

A Belgian official, who requested anonymity, merely said there had been deaths and declined to elaborate.

On Saturday, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens expressed concern about "the serious incidents which took place on university campuses" and called on Zaire authorities to respect human rights.

The Belgian government declined to comment saying Belgian ambassador to Zaire Andre Adam had gone to Lubumbashi, to get information on the situation there. Brussels was expecting the report, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. (AP)

Nigeria tries coup plotters: Ten junior officers were charged by a Nigerian military tribunal on Monday with plotting to overthrow President Ibrahim Babangida in an abortive coup last month.

Presidential aide Colonel Anthony Ukpo said more military and civilian suspects would face charges as a special panel conducted its investigation.

"We don't know the duration of the trial, nor how many suspects will be tried," he said.

Former foreign minister major-general Ike Nwachukwu, who presided over the nine-man tribunal, said it was "deeply conscious of its duty to ensure justice and equity in accordance with the human rights policy of this administration."

After the opening session, journalists were ushered out of the heavily guarded headquarters of the brigade of guards where the trials will take place in camera. (Reuter)

Zambian student demo: About 3,000 Zambian student demonstrators Monday blocked a downtown embassy to protest alleged killings at a university in neighbouring Zaire.

Placard-waving students demanded to see officials at the Zaire embassy before marching to the Zambian Foreign Ministry nearby, escorted by heavily-armed riot police.

Traffic was brought to a standstill but there were no reports of violence or arrests.

The students called for the ouster of Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko and urged Zambia to impose trade sanctions on its northern neighbour.

At the Foreign Ministry, they were addressed briefly by Foreign Minister Luke Mwanashitulu, who said the government had not received confirmation of the alleged violence in the southern Zaire town of Lubumbashi.

The demonstrators alleged that an unspecified number of students died at the hands of state guardsmen at the university in Lubumbashi last Friday. (AP)

The dispute between the ANC and Inkatha focuses on leadership and political differences, with Inkatha favouring a more conservative plan for South Africa after white-minority rule ends.

Meanwhile, President De Klerk, continuing his 9-nation European tour, held political talks with the Swiss government today before brass tacks money discussions with bankers and businessmen.

The "official" part of the visit was finishing today evening with private financial and business

talks scheduled for all day and evening Wednesday in Zurich.

Switzerland has always opposed sanctions in general as being counter-productive although it has banned arms sales to South Africa because policy bars such exports to any region of conflict.

South African government officials and African National Congress members Monday submitted to their leaders a joint report that could help clear the way for black-white negotiations on power-sharing.

London police seize gun-loaded car

LONDON, May 22, (AP): Police seized loaded automatic weapons from a car after a chase in North London early today and arrested the driver under anti-terrorist regulations, police and witnesses said.

The seizure, following Irish Republican Army bombings of two army offices in London last week, raised speculation police had intercepted an IRA unit shifting arms round the capital.

A police statement said a patrol car spotted the suspect car about 3 am (0200 GMT) today in Tottenham, North London, and gave chase. The driver eventually

pulled over, jumped out and was caught as he fled, police said.

Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, warned that another terrorist suspect was probably driving behind the arms car and has got away. They put out a general alert.

Scotland Yard said only that "weapons" were seized and the driver was being held under the prevention of terrorism act. It allows police to hold suspects for up to a week without charge.

Witnesses said police hauled several loaded submachine guns from behind the

driver's seat of the battered green Cortina, which came to halt in a suburban road, Lordship Lane.

Police at the scene said at least two Soviet-made AK-47 rifles were seized.

Kebab house owner Costas Theodorou said he heard cars screeching to a halt as he was closing in the early hours.

He looked out and saw the police handling weapons from the Cortina. Other officers held a handcuffed man of about 25, he added.

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, youths hurled a homemade bomb at a British

army patrol in Roman Catholic areas last night, injuring one soldier, the army reported. A bus driver was hurt in a separate attack with gasoline bombs, it said.

The government says it believes the IRA bombings in London last week were the start of a summer offensive in Britain against the outlawed IRA.

A sergeant was killed and another injured last Wednesday when a bomb blew apart their vehicle at an army recruiting centre in Wembley, North London, 10 miles from Tottenham.

Doubts cast on IRA bomb convicts

LONDON, May 22, (AP): New evidence casts doubt on the convictions of seven people accused of running an IRA bomb factory in the 1970s, the legal counsel for a judicial inquiry said yesterday.

Scientific tests that found traces of nitroglycerine on the hands of the seven defendants were insufficient to sustain their convictions, the counsel, David Clarke, said in his opening statement to a judicial inquiry.

The inquiry, conducted by Sir John May, has no power to reverse the convictions, and it may be a year before it makes its recommendations to the government.

In the past year, British courts have reversed the convictions of four people accused of Irish Republican Army bombings and three others convicted of plotting to assassinate a British government official.

Earlier this year, Home Secretary David Waddington ordered a review of the convictions of six men for IRA bombings in Birmingham that killed 21 people in 1974. That review has not been completed.

In the case under scrutiny yesterday, four members of the Maguire family, two relatives and a friend were convicted of possessing explosives after the basis of the tests.

No explosives were found in the possession of the seven.

They were also implicated by two men convicted of killing seven people in pub bombings in Guildford and Woolwich in 1974.

Those men and two others convicted of the pub bombings were freed last year after prosecutors admitted that police had lied about statements made by the defendants.

Following their release, former appeal court judge Sir John May was appointed to conduct an inquiry in the Guildford and Woolwich case, and the related conviction in 1976 of the Maguires.

The test used in the Maguire case, known as Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC), is a highly reliable test for nitroglycerine, Clarke said.

In a nutshell, the results of the TLC tests, viewed now with the benefit of hindsight, did not of themselves prove that there had been in the house or vicinity a primary source of contamination such as a bulk or quantity of explosive, which had been handled by all the defendants," Clarke said.

"But they do suggest that there had been at least a secondary source, that is to say a person who had been in contact with a primary source. That person need not have been one of the defendants."

For example, Clarke said, they may have handled a glass or towel previously touched by someone who had handled nitroglycerine.

Convicted in the case were Patrick Maguire, his wife Anne, and sons Vincent and Patrick; Giuseppe Conlon, husband of Patrick Maguire's sister; Sean John Smyth, Mrs Maguire's brother; and family friend Patrick Joseph O'Neill.

Abuse criminal begins jail term

LONDON, May 22, (Kuna): A British Ministry of Defence electronics expert involved in top secret projects was today beginning a two year jail sentence for sexually abusing his two young daughters, it was reported.

The man has worked on top secret projects in Britain, the US and Saudi Arabia, the Old Bailey criminal court here was told yesterday.

At the meeting the blacks had decided to suspend a consumer boycott of white business to try to calm racial tensions which erupted last Wednesday in a clash at nearby gold mine. Two whites died in the clash.

Unrest had been simmering since March when white extremists began armed vigilante patrols of the town. Blacks called the boycott 12 days ago in protest at the patrols, after several blacks were attacked, and two killed.

Residents said Thabong's youth were angered by

Mubarak warns of new Mideast war

Jewish state undermining peace efforts

CAIRO, May 22, (Reuter): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told world socialist leaders today the flood of Soviet Jews to Israel could spark a new Middle East war and he accused the Jewish state of undermining peace efforts.

"(The Jewish immigration) threatens to blow up the peace march and put the whole region on the verge of a new bloody confrontation," Mubarak told the opening session of a meeting of the Socialist International.

In remarks to reporters later, the Egyptian leader blamed Israel for lack of peace to the region.

"While everybody is calling for peace, you (Israelis) are obstructing peace efforts," he said.

The Egyptian leader spoke following a resurgence in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, sparked by the murder of seven Gaza workers by an Israeli gunman. Israeli authorities said the man was deranged.



Mubarak (left) talks with Peres after the opening of the Socialist International meeting in Cairo May 22. (Reuter wirephoto)

At least 21 people, including the seven, have died and 800 been wounded since Sunday.

Mubarak, whose country is the only Arab state to have made peace with Israel, said that immigration to Israel itself was not an issue.

"But for the sake of peace and for the interests of Israel and the Arab countries, immigrants should not settle in occupied, disputed Arab lands."

"The situation will deteriorate and become more dangerous fighting will erupt between them and the Palestinians," Mubarak said.

More than 33,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel in the first four months of this year and the government expects a total of 150,000 by the end of the year.

The influx, caused by more liberal Soviet policies and a US clampdown on the number of migrants it will accept, has angered and alarmed Arabs.

"They fear the newcomers, who will strengthen the Jewish claim could displace Palestinians in the occupied territories, although only a few hundred have so far settled there."

The Egyptian leader warned Israel that peace could not be achieved if they ignored the rights of Palestinians.

"The Palestinians must regain their land. Are you happy with the daily fighting and the daily loss of life," he asked of Israeli leaders.

"It is impossible for the situation to continue like this," he added.

Repeatedly Egyptian criticism of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last year in which the Egyptian leader said the Palestinian already had a homeland in Jordan, Mubarak said.

"If they start talking about the alternative homeland, the catastrophe will be greater and we'll return once more to 1948," referring to an Arab-Israeli war after the declaration of the state of Israel.

Mubarak earlier told delegates from 89 socialist and social democratic parties that their movement should "confront the danger of immigrating Soviet Jews to the occupied territories."

The Jewish immigration is one of the main issues on the agenda of an Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on May 28.

Without fanfare, East Germany has opened its doors to Soviet Jews in a further move underscoring its eagerness to atone for the Holocaust and improve ties with Israel.

World War II mines kill 7 in Libyan desert

TUNIS, May 22, (Reuter): Seven people working for a West German company were killed by World War II landmines in the Libyan desert near Tobruk, the Libyan news agency Jana said today.

A West German embassy source in Tripoli contacted by telephone from Tunis confirmed the report and said the accident took place on May 20.

But he said he was not authorized to release the names of those killed nor identify the company.

The seven dead were two Libyans, three Mauritanians, a Thai and a West German. They were clearing battlefields of mines 80 kms (50 miles) south of Tobruk at Bir Hakeim.

Since the end of the war in 1945 several thousand people and animals have been killed by landmines exploding in the desert in the Tobruk area, Jana said.

More will be taken hostage

Free our men: Khaddafi

NICOSIA, May 22, (Reuter): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi has warned of more hostage-taking in the Middle East if Israel and Western countries refuse to release Arab prisoners.

Khaddafi said many hostage-takers had told him that unless Israel and Western countries freed imprisoned Arabs and Muslims there would be "more hostage-taking and more violent action."

"They told me that for your sake and for the sake of the appeal you made, some were released, and what is needed is more hostages so that the West is forced to release Arab hostages in their hands," he quoted hostage-takers as saying.

The Libyan news agency Jana, moored in Nicosia, said Khaddafi was talking in an interview with the Lebanese Al-Hawadeth magazine, due to be published tomorrow.

Khaddafi said he expected an "explosion of violence" over

Israel's actions in the region and at Western support to the Jewish state.

"There is no hope and we should not deceive ourselves that terrorism and violence has started to decrease."

"If the West continues in its complete bias in favour of the Israelis and keep its disregard of the Arab, Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, then I expect an increase in violence that will spread out everywhere," Khaddafi said.

He said he would "spare no effort to free more hostages despite their nationalities... but calling for the release of Westerners without freeing Easterners or Arabs in Western prisons is unacceptable."

"The hostage-taking phenomenon has not come out from the void. It has genuine reasons and unfortunately, we avoided dealing with the main reasons," he said.

Tunis parties to boycott polls

TUNIS, May 22, (Reuter): Six legal opposition parties and the Islamic fundamentalists in Tunisia have decided to boycott municipal elections next month.

The decision leaves the ruling Tunisian RCD Party alone in contesting the poll.

The ruling RCD (Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique), set up by President Zine Abidine Ben Ali after he ousted Habib Bourguiba in 1988, had hoped opposition groups would join the election in

a multi-party system replacing the one-party rule which operated since independence.

Four small parties, considered close to the RCD, announced today they would not put up any candidates.

They are the Popular Union Party, the Social Party of Progress, the Unionist Democratic Union, and the Socialist Assembly for Progress.

The parties say the RCD dominates the administration,

Black, white extremist violence casts doubts on South African leaders abilities

JOHANNESBURG, May 22, (Reuter): Black and white extremists to the mining town of Welkom have cast doubt on the ability of South Africa's leaders to control violence on the ground as they edge towards a political settlement.

White neo-Nazis vowed to resume armed patrols of the town today, while blacks have made the adjoining township of Thabong a no-go area for whites by setting up blazing barricades.

Yesterday the blacks stabbed a black council official and burned his body, taking the death toll in the past week to seven blacks and two whites.

The African National Congress (ANC) nationalist group and the government held three days of historic talks at the start of May.

ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela, who led the ANC team in the May talks with President F.W. de Klerk, accused the government yesterday of being unable, or unwilling to control its police force after police fired at crowds leaving a meeting in Thabong on Sunday killing four people.

"It seems as if the government is either conniving at police excesses or it is unable to deal with the situation," he said to Zimbabwe during a stopover

on an African tour.

At the meeting the blacks had decided to suspend a consumer boycott of white business to try to calm racial tensions which erupted last Wednesday in a clash at nearby gold mine. Two whites died in the clash.

Unrest had been simmering since March when white extremists began armed vigilante patrols of the town. Blacks called the boycott 12 days ago in protest at the patrols, after several blacks were attacked, and two killed.

Residents said Thabong's youth were angered by

the decision to suspend the boycott and began stoning and looting buses. Police then opened fire on the crowd.

Skirmishes between the police and youths continued during the night and yesterday blacks drove police and reporters out with stones and axes.

The government says continued violence in black communities is preventing it from lifting a four-year-old state of emergency, a key precondition set by black leaders before they will agree to negotiations on power-sharing.

Libyans, Syrians seeking missiles

LONDON, May 22, (Agencies): Libya and Syria are trying to buy long-range Chinese missiles and Libya is developing a surface-to-surface missile of its own, a British magazine quoted Israeli intelligence officials as saying.

Flight International reported today that Israel believed Syria was negotiating the purchase of M-9 surface-to-surface missiles from China, which have a 600-km (360-mile) range that could be stretched to 1,000 km (600 miles).

The magazine reported Libya proposed financing the purchase of 140 M-9s, keeping 80 and sending the other 60 to Syria.

"It now seems that this deal will bring the M-9 to both Libya and Syria," it quoted Israeli intelligence as saying.

The officials also said Libya was developing a 1,000-km (600-mile) range missile that could reach the Jewish state.

It quoted the Israeli officials as saying the missile's rocket motor was being tested but the Libyans were having trouble getting vital components and technology.

Hoax A packet marked "nuclear triggers" sent to the Iraqi embassy contained harmless electronic components used in home appliances, the Foreign Office said today.

Iraqi diplomats had complained that the packet, received in the embassy mail last week, was "another campaign" against their country and an attempt to strain British-Iraqi relations.

But the Foreign Office said the episode appeared to be "the work of a hoaxer."

"These devices are widely available in hardware shops and have a range of domestic appliance use," said a spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They would not require an export licence and do not have a nuclear weapons application," the spokesman added that the Iraqis had not handed over the envelope in which they said the devices arrived and it was impossible to trace where the letter was mailed.

The Foreign Office had the 28 small "devices" examined by Defence Ministry experts after the Iraqis handed them in.

In March, British authorities working with the United States seized a consignment of US-made capacitors at Heathrow airport. US prosecutors said at the time that the devices were powerful capacitors to be used for detonating nuclear warheads.

A senior Greek prosecutor recommended yesterday that charges against British lorry driver Paul Ashwell, accused of transporting parts for an alleged Iraqi supergun, be reduced to a misdemeanor or dropped.

Court officials said the view of Nikos Tourloupis, a deputy appeals court prosecutor, was sent to the three-judge tribunal which must decide whether Ashwell goes to trial and on what charges. A decision is expected by next week.

A lower court prosecutor, Antonis Mitis, is seeking felony charges against Ashwell, 26, for transportation of illegal weapons.

Ashwell could face up to 20 years in jail if convicted on a felony, but under Greek law could pay off a misdemeanor instead of going to jail.

Court officials said Tourloupis recommended that charges against Ashwell be reduced to a misdemeanor but added because there was no criminal intent, this should be dropped as well.

Fair polls in Algiers

ALGIERS, May 22, (Reuters): President Chadli Benjedid has vowed at the start of campaigning for Algeria's first free elections next month they would be fair and democratic.

"The state will watch with all the powers given by the constitution... that these first elections in Algeria leading toward democracy will take place in a good, democratic and transparent fashion," he said last night.

The opposition fears Chadli's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), which has monopolised political power for 27 years, will use its vastly superior means and entrenched position to try to maintain its supremacy.

Chadli, addressing a meeting of public sector officials in the eastern city of Constantine, also took an apparent swipe at the FLN's main opponents, the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Israel to introduce sand bullet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 22, (AP): The Israeli army plans to introduce a bullet made of compressed sand as a new riot deterrent in the occupied territories, a military spokeswoman said yesterday.

The sand bullet, expected to be introduced in a few months, is designed to be fired during close-range confrontations, she said.

"The aim is to reduce the force of impact. The bullet is not meant to cause serious injuries but to deter," the spokeswoman said.

The daily Maariv newspaper said Sunday that the sand bullet, together with a new type of rubber bullet without a metal core, are to be fired from the distance of 15 to 40 metres

(yards) in clusters of three.

Israeli soldiers, however, would also continue to use plastic bullets, rubber-coated metal pellets and live ammunition in their battle against the 29-month Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At least 705 Palestinians have died of Israeli gunfire in the rebellion, and an additional 216 have been killed by other Arabs as suspected pro-Israeli collaborators. Forty-three Israelis also have been slain by Palestinians.

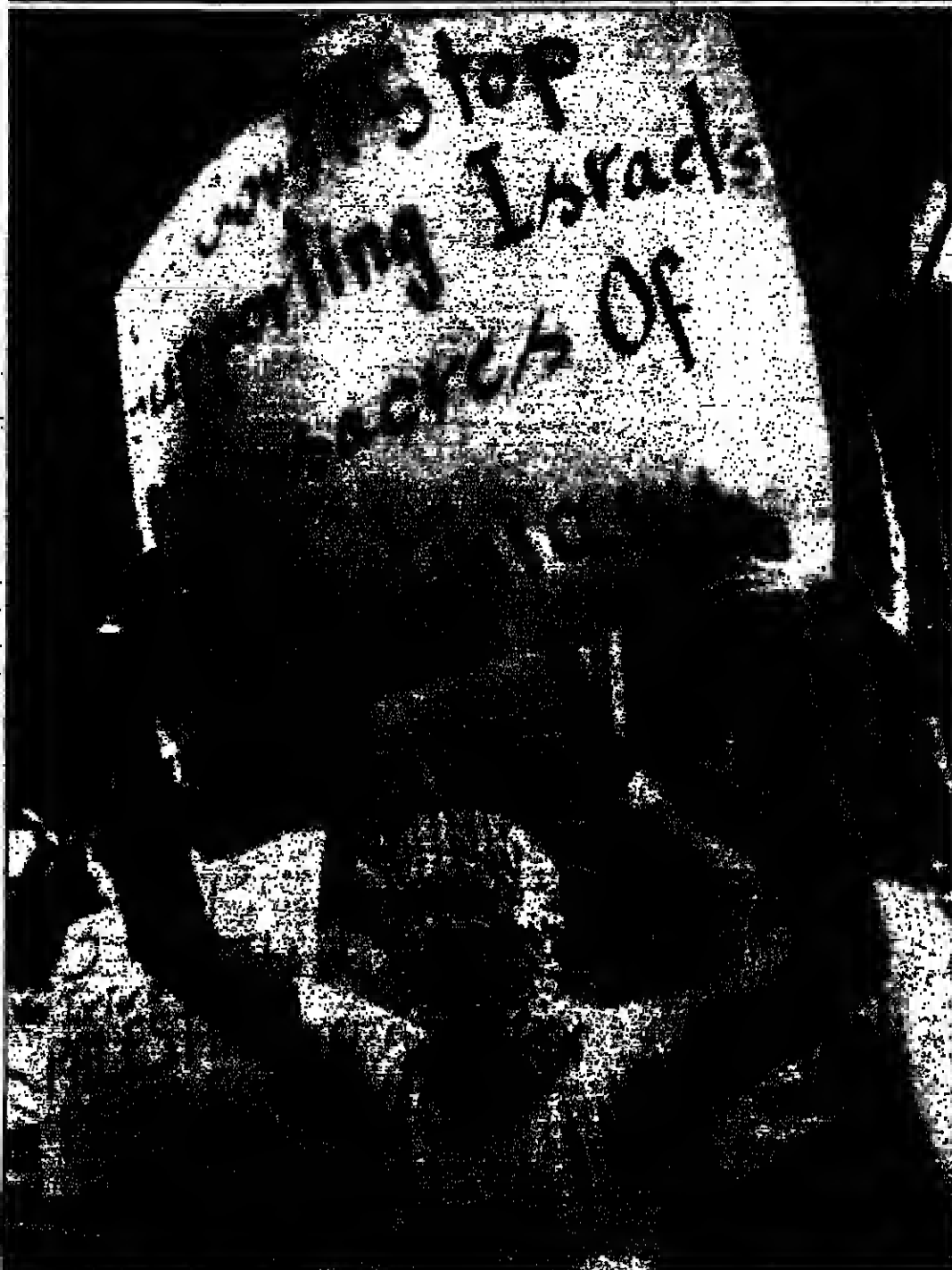
In July 1988, the army introduced plastic bullets to break up Palestinian demonstrations with a minimum of fatalities. Such bullets are not supposed to be lethal if fired

from a range of 70 metres (yards).

However, at least 128 Palestinians have been killed by plastic bullets as of March 2, 1990, according to army figures.

Neither the army nor Israeli human rights groups could provide figures on fatalities resulting from the rubber bullets, but several Palestinians have been killed by those, including the so-called "improved" round rubber bullets with an enlarged metal core.

Maariv said the sand bullets are to serve as an alternative to the plastic and rubber bullets which have caused deaths and severe injuries when fired at close range.



March of anger

About 250 angry Palestinians (above) and their supporters marched Monday outside the Israeli consulate to protest a crackdown by Israeli troops on violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip that followed the slayings of seven Arab workers.

Khalid Sharaf, a spokesman for the demonstrators, said the protest was organised after news spread about the slayings Sunday morning by an Israeli gunman wearing soldier's pants in a community near Tel Aviv.

Since then, official reports say escalating violence has led to at least three more Palestinian deaths and the wounding of some 170 others by Israeli soldiers. Sharaf contended that 11 Palestinians had been killed in the wake of the shooting and more than 800 wounded.



Bakdash, leader of Syrian Communist Party calls his vote in Damascus May 22. (Reuters wirephoto)

Syrians go to polls

Independents guaranteed 84 seats

DAMASCUS, May 22, (Agencies): Syrians went to the polls today to choose 250 members of parliament from among over 9,000 candidates with the government making room for more independent candidates than usual.

Independents are guaranteed 84 seats and could also win others contested by the National Progressive Front (NPF) led by the ruling Baath Party and grouping five other parties.

The NPF has named only 166 candidates. Diplomats said a wider presence of independents in the new parliament would mean that most shades of Syrian opinion would be represented for the first time in the 20-year rule of the government of President Hafez Al Assad.

Independents were allocated only 33 seats in the last election in 1986.

The voters poured into polling stations by bus and trolley on the first day of the general elections.

Candidates offered soft drinks to voters waiting at polling stations in Damascus in temperatures over 30 degrees centigrade.

Interior Minister Mohammad Harba is expected to announce the final results within 48 hours after

the polls close on Wednesday with six and a half million people eligible to vote.

There are no parties in Syria other than the NPF six — Baath, Communist, Socialist Union, Socialist Unionist, Arab Socialist and Democratic Arab Socialist parties.

Assad said last week Syria would benefit from the political experiences of other countries.

Syria has consistently rejected comparisons with East European governments swept from power last year in a flowering of Western-style democracy.

In a major speech in March, Assad decried the changes in Eastern Europe as a boon to Israel and called for a holy war "as long as time" against the Jewish state.

While decrying the upheavals in once-socialist countries that traditionally were Syria's ally, Assad hinted that he might make some changes in his own tough brand of socialist rule.

He suggested a government study on limiting use of emergency laws that have been in force for decades, and spoke of broadening parties and organisations represented in the currently Baath-dominated National Progressive Front.

Resumed Greek ties with Israel

BRUSSELS, May 22, (UPI): Greece and Israel signed a joint declaration today establishing full diplomatic relations between the two countries, a Greek spokesman said.

Greece so far was the only European Economic Community country which had not recognised "de jure" the state of Israel, the spokesman said.

The two countries had diplomatic representatives, but not at the level of ambassadors.

Conservative Greek Prime Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis had promised to remedy this situation. The establishment of full diplomatic relations will enable the two countries to exchange ambassadors, the spokesman said.

The joint declaration was signed at the Greek representation to the EEC by Reuven Merhav, director general at the Israeli foreign ministry, and Panagiotis Ikononou, secretary-general at the Greek Foreign Ministry.

The declaration said the two governments "have decided to upgrade the present status of their diplomatic representations to that of embassies."

Beirut truce appears holding

BEIRUT, May 22, (UPI): The war-battered Christian enclave remained calm today as an Israeli-mediated truce appeared to be holding for a seventh day, although hopes for a permanent resolution remained complicated by foreign alliances.

Several roads in east Beirut were jammed with traffic early today as many residents moved freely among areas held by the rival forces of military leader Gen. Michel Aoun and militia chief Samir Geagea, police said.

A general calm has prevailed throughout the 310-square-mile (800 km) Christian enclave since last Friday, reportedly as a result of Iraqi mediation efforts designed to halt the warfare for the control of the region.

But police said the peace was marred during the night with recurring mortar and rocket blasts along confrontation lines manned by the rival forces.

The east Beirut-based Al Anwar daily newspaper reported that the general calm in east Beirut was the result of an Iraqi-sponsored agreement stipulating a ceasefire on land and at sea.

"Iraq asked for a solid ceasefire prior to holding the forthcoming Arab summit to be held on its territory," Al Anwar reported.

Iraq, seeking to undermine the 14-year-old Syrian role in Lebanon, has boosted its intervention in the Lebanese crisis in the past year, supplying both Aoun's troops and Geagea's militia with arms and ammunition.

The peace accord between the Christian forces was reached during a recent visit to Iraq by envoys from both Aoun and Geagea, political sources said.

Under the agreement, both Aoun and Geagea vowed to halt artillery attacks on each other's ports and shiploads of arms and supplies docking at their harbours, Al Anwar said.

Lebanese government officials said President Elias Hrawi probably will not attend the Arab summit scheduled for May 28 in order to show his solidarity with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad.

Iranian crackdown facing stiff resistance

NICOSIA, May 22, (AP): The head of Iran's judiciary yesterday reiterated the need to counter social vices such as lax observance of Muslim dress codes, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi stressed "the need for seriously countering social vices and failure to observe the Islamic code of dressing" in a meeting with other members of the judiciary Sunday.

The government launched a renewed crackdown on women failing to cover themselves from head to foot, and men sporting short sleeve shirts or neck-

Yemen

(Continued from Page 1)

To his first act after taking the presidential oath Saleh hoisted the new national flag — red, white and black — above the Aden parliament building.

A military band played the southern national anthem which has been adopted by the new state, among the poorest and least developed in the Arab world.

The Coast Guard fired several cannon shots and anchored vessels hoisted their horns as the two nations of tribespeople merged into one country standing on the brink of oil wealth.

Together, the United Republic of Yemen has newly discovered aggregate oil field reserves unofficially put at two billion barrels. It sits on the strategically located Bab Al-Mandab, a strait at the southern outlet of the Red Sea into the Indian ocean.

The merger erased the vestiges of the Arab world's only communist government, in Aden.

North Yemen, by far more populous of the two old states with a population of some 10 million, is a society largely dominated by tribe and religion.

The socialist rulers of the larger South have in contrast

promoted a secular culture since they won independence from Britain 23 years ago.

Yemeni embassies around the world, who for years represented governments that were bitterly at odds and fought a brief war in 1972, today raised the same flag simultaneously.

Aden, capital and main port of the once-British ruled South, will be the economic capital of the new state. Sanaa in the North will be the political capital.

Only a group of Muslim fundamentalists in the North, objecting that the new state's constitution is not based entirely on Islamic law, have voiced opposition to the merger.

Three fundamentalist deputies walked out and five abstained when the northern parliament overwhelmingly voted to ratify the merger yesterday. Outside Parliament 1,000 fundamentalists staged a protest.

Balancing the northern President, the parliament in a joint session today chose southerner Ali Salem Al-Baidh, secretary-general of the south's ruling socialist party, to be his deputy.

Aden's Soviet-style govern-

ment began its own version of perestroika last year. The resulting thaw in ties with Sanaa allowed the long-discussed dreams of unity to become real.

In a televised ceremony the parliaments elected three men to join the president and vice-president in a five-member ruling council.

They were southerner Salem Saleh Mohammed, Al-Baidh's former deputy, and northerners Abdel-Karim Al-Arshi, former parliament speaker, and Abdel-Aziz Abdulghani, Sanaa's former prime minister.

With the merger taking place six months ahead of schedule, many details of economic and political union must still be thrashed out. Elections are to be held around the end of 1992.

Yemen hopes western oil companies will find big reserves in the South, where exploration has been scant. Both countries are already minor producers.

First to congratulate Saleh today was Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Yemen television said Saddam told him by telephone that a united Yemen "is a strong tributary for the Arab and Islamic nation."

Brainchild of Carlos, Hassan

Joining Africa, Europe

MARRAKESH, Morocco, May 22, (Reuters): Legend says Hercules wrestled Europe from Africa by creating the Straits of Gibraltar. Today, people are planning to join them together again.

Some 300 world experts met in this red-walled city last week to study ways of joining the two continents with either a bridge or a tunnel.

The idea is the brainchild of Kings Juan Carlos of Spain and Hassan II of Morocco, royal patrons of Spanish and Moroccan firms that have spent 10 years studying the project.

The ancient Greek myth about Hercules and the straits attempts to explain a geological phenomenon that created a gap 16 km (10 miles) wide and 980 metres (3,200 feet) deep.

Reports submitted to the Marrakesh meeting said little is known about the possibility of it happening again. It is assumed there is a major geological fault and the rift may be unstable.

Apart from the risks of a catastrophic earthquake that could flood a tunnel or cause a bridge to collapse, the biggest unknown quantity is the cost of the project.

In 1979 it was estimated at \$1.25 billion. The figure has since risen to \$5 billion for a tunnel, more for a bridge.

Vicente Garcia Alvarez, vice-president of the Spanish company Secog, has mentioned a figure of one trillion pesetas, or nearly \$10 billion.

Experts say the figures reflect the magnitude of the project, one of the world's biggest engineering challenges, comparable to the 50 km (31 mile) channel tunnel being built between Britain and France or the 54 km (33 mile) Seikao tunnel linking Japanese islands.

A bridge is the most spectacular solution and favoured by King Hassan. It would straddle the straits with two 2,000 metre (6,560 feet) spans, between cape Malabata near Tangier and Punta Paloma in Spain, where the water is 300 metres (980 feet) deep.

Fixing suspension bridge piers on the bottom presents major technical problems, so one plan is to have them floating on gigantic pontoons like offshore oil drilling platforms.

The bridge would carry road traffic and a pipeline taking Algerian natural gas to Europe, but it could be a hazard to shipping.

More than 52,000 large surface vessels sail through the straits every year, plus an unknown number of submarines.

A tunnel would be 54 km (33 miles) long because the shortest route of 16 km (10 miles) between the Rock of Gibraltar and the limestone pinnacle in Ceuta on the African side — the so-called Pillars of Hercules — is too deep.

Several routes are envisaged on the Western end where the sea is only 250 metres (820 feet) deep at the most.

Because of pollution risks, the tunnel would be for rail traffic only, carrying passengers, freight and motor vehicles, after solving the problem of different Spanish and Moroccan rail gauges.

"The next decade will certainly see the start of work on the job," said Mohamed Kabbaj, Moroccan minister of equipment, who added that it would take about 10 years to complete.

But at the end of the Marrakesh conference the consensus was that it would take another 10 years to finish feasibility studies for either a bridge or a tunnel.



Two day conference

Wally Brandt chairman of the Socialist International making his speech during the opening session in Cairo on May 22. The two-day conference is attended by 89 representatives. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lebanese woman trafficker convicted

MARSEILLE, France, May 22, (AP): A Lebanese woman who claimed she smuggled heroin to raise money for a Christian militia force in Lebanon was sentenced today to 14 years in prison.

Nine Lebanese co-defendants were convicted of involvement in the drug trafficking ring and received prison sentences ranging from two to 12 years. The ring allegedly smuggled at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of heroin into France from Lebanon in 1988.

The principal defendant, Marie Al Lakkis, 32, described herself in court as a "combatant" for the Lebanese Forces militia and acknowledged a role in drug smuggling. She is a former companion of Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea.

"I was linked by ties of blood and of love with the highest officials of the Lebanese Forces, who are struggling for a country that has been abandoned by the Western powers," Ms Al Lakkis said during the trial.

One of her chief partners in the drug ring, Walid Keirallah, 34, received a 12-year prison sentence. Sentences of 10 years were issued to Edmond Mayne, 31, and Karabet Landjian, 35, arrested in Marseille in possession of 700 grammes of poor-quality heroin.

The court imposed a 20-year prison term for Jean Al Lakkis, Marie's brother, who was being tried in absentia and is subject of an international arrest warrant. He allegedly was the ring's mastermind.

The Lebanese Forces, in a communique issued last week in Beirut, said it had no connection with the alleged smuggling ring and never received any funds from drug traffic.

Israelis despair of computer licence

WASHINGTON, May 22, (AP): Discouraged by US reluctance to allow the export of supercomputers to Israel, Israeli scientists have begun research for an innovative system more powerful than anything the United States has right now, university officials say.

Three Israeli institutions have applied for licences to buy Cray and IBM supercomputers, but the permits have been held up out of concern that Israel might use the fast-computing systems to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

An inter-agency administration team has been considering the applications for almost two years but has thus far refused to yield to pressure from manufacturers and lobbyists.

"The writing's on the wall," said Maia Hauser, the US spokeswoman for Technion, Israel's leading high-tech university. "We'll have to go it on our own."

Technion applied in 1988 for a Cray-2 for scientific and engineering research. The Weizman Science Institute and Bar-Ilan University also have pending licence requests. The Commerce Department, which has final say on the licensing, is banned by law from discussing supercomputer applications.

Israel has set up a government committee to investigate the feasibility of entering into research and development of a new brand of supercomputer which is based on parallel computation techniques rather than on serial ones, said Technion vice-president Brian Silver.

Israel would have gone into such research anyway because that is the wave of the future in supercomputers but the US hold on the supercomputers has given the project a strong push, he said.

"There's not much difficulty in us producing them within several years if we decide to," said Silver.

Technion scientists have already begun theoretical research into parallel computing and laboratories are being set up to conduct experiments, he said.

Kuwaiti aid for all in Lebanon

Mubarak handling third batch

DAMASCUS, May 22. (Kuna): Representative of His Highness the Kuwait Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al Sabah met yesterday in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon with the higher Lebanese relief committee assigned with receiving Kuwait's aid to Lebanon.

They exchanged talks on means of handling the third batch of that aid, storing

methods and distribution programme. Sheikh Mubarak affirmed Kuwait's keenness on distributing aid materials to all Lebanese without any distinction and hailed the committee's co-operation in storing the materials and in their fair distribution.

He expressed satisfaction toward stands of Syrian and Lebanese officials that had facilitated the distribution of the relief

materials at the appropriate time and in good condition.

Satisfaction

Sheikh Mubarak told Kuna that an agreement was reached that the committee would distribute the relief materials to representatives of all governorates in Lebanon each according to number of its population.

The Kuwaiti official along with the country's ambassador to Damascus Ahmad Aziz Al Jassim delivered the first two consignments on April 18 and in first week of May to the committee. Sheikh Mubarak had personally supervised distribution process.

The third and last batch of 58 trucks loaded with medicine, medical equipment and foodstuffs will be delivered tomorrow.

Exam schedule unfair: students

Increase in standards sought

GENERAL secondary exams constitute a transitional period for students between the school and the university and every student aspires to gain admission to the university.

In this co-relation, examinations this year will witness some changes with respect to the Arabic language, English and mathematics. These papers will be evaluated through two papers each to be held in two terms each.

Some students believe that such a system will lead to minimising marks and will cause tension during examinations. Others believe that the proposed system will make no difference, other than reducing the relevant time of each examination and consequently, students will not feel tired during the exam period. Meanwhile, some students complained that the two-week holiday given to students to prepare themselves for the examinations was insufficient.

To expound on these issues, a local daily reported the excerpts of interviews with some students and teachers.

Sana Ahmed, a student, described the examination schedule as unfair, clarifying that it entails completing the Arabic language exam in one day without taking into consideration that the curricula of the Arabic language consists of three big books.

She complained that the performance of the examination through two terms will result in the students to return back home late. She said that the ministry defined the preparation period for exams at 13 days and this could be deemed an insufficient period.

Meanwhile, the general consensus among students is that the percentage of successful students will be lower this year. Hatem Al Shoubasi another student described the examination scheduled as good, but added that performing the Arabic language and English exams in one day each will cause heavy burden on students. He commented that negative effects will be reflected on the level of marks of all students.

He added that the holiday given to students to prepare themselves for exams was sufficient for three examinations only, but could not cover the relevant schedule which consists of seven curricula.

Shortcomings

Dua Shukri, said that except for biology and mathematics, the examination schedule in general can be classified as good. She added that with regard to the Arabic and English languages, it would be acceptable to perform the examination during one day each.

Mohammed Kalash, another student said that the examination scheduled this year, has some shortcomings and it is completely unlike last year. He clarified that, in the past the students used to perform the Arabic language examinations in two days, but this year we have to make the pertinent exam in one day, keeping in mind that the preparation period is insufficient.

Khouloud Abdurazzak said that the period given for the students to prepare themselves for exams was sufficient for the students who were updating their studies, but for truant students such a period is insufficient.

But she complained of the examination schedule, clarifying that the performing of the Arabic



Exam time ... students hard at work



Linking educational plans with the requirements of the labour market

language or English language in one day each is inappropriate and this will increase the number of students cheating. She expected that the failure percentage will witness a considerable increase this year among the secondary stage students.

Meanwhile, a chemistry teacher identified only as A.A. said that the pre-examination period given to the students this year is inadequate.

She added that the curriculum consisting of seven materials, needs one week to enable the students to retrieve the relevant data and hence the students need seven weeks instead of two.

A.M., an Arabic language teacher described the pre-examination period as insufficient particularly for the Arabic language examinations. She added that the previous system was better particularly towards the holiday given. She said that the examination schedule this year may negatively affect students' grades, clarifying that the said schedule seems to have considered only outstanding students and ignored other levels.

Mathematics teacher identified as G.Y. said the pre-examination period defined by the Ministry of Education this year could be deemed sufficient for serious students, but we should keep in mind that most of the students could not be classified under this category.

She described the examination schedule this year as good and will obviate the weariness which students encounter during the examination period.

The director of Educational Research Centre, Dr Issa Jassim on the other hand said that the third conference on general education will be held next November.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the meeting will be attended by representatives from Kuwait's Ministry of Education in addition to representatives from governmental and non-governmental institutions. He commented that the conference will debate several issues related to the general education structure and also the needs of the local market for qualified graduates.

The official called for setting up necessary schemes aimed at linking educational plans with the requirements of the labour market.

Meanwhile, the director of Jahra educational area Sulaiman Al Koh said that the optimization of students' performance level is one of the basic objectives that the area is working to achieve.

He said that a series of meetings have been held for this purpose during which the main emphasis was laid on the best way to follow up efforts exerted to achieve this end.

He pointed out that extra-curricular tuition classes were started last November in most schools in the area and the free of charge remedial courses in many schools in the area.

He said that there is special attention towards students weak in certain courses and that teachers are under an obligation to pay extra attention to these students and not to offer them any private tuition after schools.

Meanwhile, the director of the Ahmad education area Abdullahi Al Lughman said that the area has given special attention to the efforts intended to improve the student educational performance and extra special attention to students weak in certain courses.

He said that instructions were given to some schools to start extra-curricular remedial courses to weak students for the intermediate and secondary schools since November last year.

He stressed the need to deepen the role played by the technical guidance staff at schools and assigned them to carry out a diagnostic survey of students to determine the causes of weakness in certain courses and the interrelation of this phenomenon with the teachers' performance.

The director of the capital educational area Khalid Al Sulaiman said that a special working plan has been set up to analyse the mid-term exam results of students in the area whereby to determine the educational level of performance.

He added that the plan is intended to seek the best ways to help students gain the remedial courses and find solutions to help overcome their weakness in certain courses.

Lebanon crisis

Saudis appeal for help

NICOSIA, May 22. (Reuters): Saudi Arabian King Fahd said yesterday the kingdom alone could not resolve the Lebanese problem and appealed for help from Arab governments and warring Lebanese factions themselves.

He told a cabinet session that Saudi Arabia, a member of a special Arab League panel, would "spare no effort to save Lebanon from its crisis."

"But Saudi Arabia cannot alone realise all Lebanese aspirations without God's help, sincere assistance from brothers and ... above all from the Lebanese leaders," Information Minister Ali Al Shaer quoted the Saudi monarch as saying.

His remarks, reported by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), came shortly before the foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco — members of the committee on Lebanon — ended a two-day meeting in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to discuss the deadlocked peace efforts.

A statement carried by SPA, received in Cyprus, said the three ministers agreed on a "programme of action for the next stage to attract further Arab and international support with the aim of continuing the peace process in Lebanon."

A peace plan drafted by the committee was endorsed by Lebanese deputies in the Saudi mountain resort of Taif last October.

But it was rejected by Christian General Michel Aoun because it failed to provide for a definite Syrian troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

He also refused to accept President Elias Hrawi, elected under terms of the accord, and has been engaged in heavy fighting with the Lebanese Forces militia since January for control of the Christian enclave.

2,059 off ban list

THE director of the executive department of ministry of justice Judge Salem Al Khudair has said that department banned travelling of 4,591 persons from the beginning of this year and lifted 2,059 names from the ban list besides issuing 90 orders to imprison debtors during the same period against 884 orders to release debtors and 221 orders to detain persons at police centres.

He added that banning debtors from travelling is an active procedure demanded by creditors to oblige debtors to pay their debts. He added that the executive department is the authorised department to issue such orders. But it cannot issue these orders without receiving requests from creditors, he said.

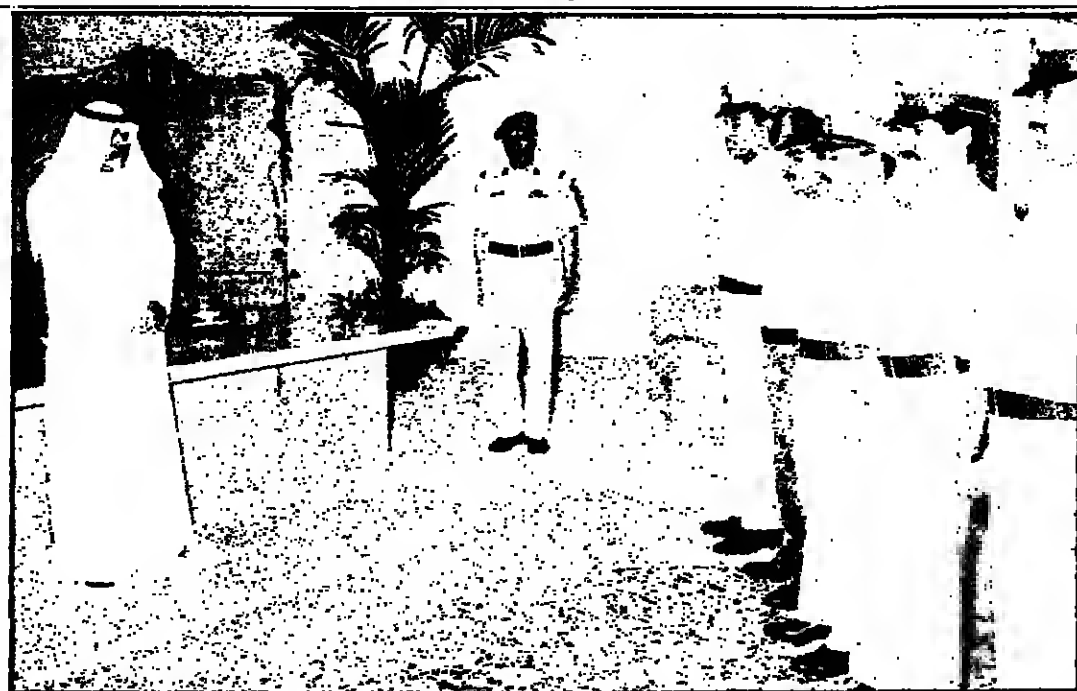
He pointed out that his department receives thousands of judicial sentences from courts every year. These sentences are regarding different labour, civil, commercial, rents, and personal status cases.

GOIC meet in Qatar

GULF Organisation for Industrial Consultations (GOIC) held a promotion meeting at its premises in Doha yesterday, the Qatar News Agency quoted an official source at GOIC as saying.

It added that the meeting was attended by experts from the industrial companies of the private and public sectors of the GCC states who debated a study prepared by GOIC on industrial activities.

The director of projects department at the organisation Dr Naji Abdullah told QNA that the study debated at the meeting should constitute a modernisation for a previous study that was prepared by GOIC in 1984. He pointed out that some amendments were being inserted to adapt to the development seen by the GCC countries during the recent years.



Army officers graduate

A number of army cadets Monday took the oath before Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad on completion of their training courses. Director of officers affairs department read the Amiri Decree appointing them in the Kuwaiti Army. Sheikh Nawaf urged them to exert more efforts in the service of the country.

Latar the officers were received by the Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mazyed Al Sane who presented them their military ranks.



Official warns of deepening generation gap in Kuwait

Families blamed

EXPRESSING regrets on social realities in Kuwait, the head of family programmes at Kuwait Radio, Aisha Al Yahya, commented that every effort should be made to preserve and enhance the future identity of the community.

In an interview with a local daily, the official was quoted as saying that adolescents are becoming increasingly prone to disrupt the family and the community at large.

She warned against the ever-widening gap between parents and their children, referring that present-day youth suffer from several problems that if left unchecked could disrupt their futures.

Speaking on marriages between Kuwaiti men and expatriate women, she underscored her sentiment that Kuwaiti men should marry Kuwaiti women and called on the government to enact a law to ban the registration of marriages between Kuwaiti men and their expatriate wives.

While on this subject of matrimony, Yabya criticised girls who marry men who are already married and described the marriage as "an act of theft." Elucidating, she said that by marrying a man who was already married, these girls had tacitly connived to steal the husband of a wife. In cases where the first wife is divorced, it causes a social problem, when the divorce is accompanied with litigation of children, it creates a traumatic experience not only for the wife, but to the children, and to all family in general.

Ostracism

She went on to state that the increasing number of spinsters in the Kuwaiti community constitutes a social problem and added that when a Kuwaiti girl gets married to an expatriate man, she is socially ostracised and pointed out that this logic should equally be applicable to Kuwaiti men who marry expatriate women.

She criticised the performance of Kuwaiti welfare societies and said that they had failed to address the social problems prevailing in the community. Specifically she said that there are a lot of needy Kuwaiti families and she is personally involved with collecting alms during the holy month of Ramadan from philanthropists. She called on the Ministry of

Social Affairs and Labour to review the assistance being extended to these families.

A number of Kuwaiti personalities, citizens and media men have blamed families — especially parents for being responsible for the delinquency of their children.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Sabah referred the delinquency among youth to the freedom, wealth and lack of control of their parents. He also said that long leisure periods and allowing girls to travel abroad without supervision, increases the problem and contributes to heightened delinquency.

He continued that social values and morals are weakening day by day and commented that unless urgent measures are instituted to redress the issues contributing to the delinquency of youth in Kuwait, the decline in morals and other social traditions will come about to be on a level with those of the West. Ghanim Al Saleh, an actor said the blame for delinquency should not be attributed to youth alone, as parents, school authorities and the local media are equally responsible. He called for the establishment of more entertainment places for youths as well as scientific and sporting clubs and stressed on the importance of having strong religious faith to avoid delinquency and immoral acts.

The well-known announcer Ali Hassan referred the delinquency of youths to their families and then to their bad friends. The school comes after them in bearing a part of responsibility. He added that families should have strict control on their children especially in watching video films. He called on them to develop religious values and morals among youths. Employing students during summer is one of the means to guide them and protect them from delinquency that usually is caused by the long leisure time.

A number of citizens stressed that there is a big gap between parents and their children. The religious factor prevents youths from delinquency. Bad friends can affect the behaviour of good one. There should be strong relations between parents and their children beside giving them limited freedom.

Charter deal

Actual agreement clarified

THE assistant rector of Kuwait University for society service and continuous education Dr Rasha Al Sabah has described the statement of head of Kuwait Students Union about the agreement reached between union and administration of university as inaccurate and vague. She revealed the actual points agreed by two parties on the problem of the course charter as follows:

A joint committee can be set up from representatives of students and administration of university to study the articles 10 and 13 of the charter and proposals submitted to amend them. The committee will raise recommendations to the administration of university to take required action within one week.

The same committee can study situations of students who were dismissed or suspended from university during the first and second sessions of the academic year 89/1990 who are required to get an average of B or lower to be allowed to be free of warning. They will be allowed to be registered again if there is no other reason preventing this.

The deans of faculties and teachers understand demands of students to strike. They will take this question into consideration.

Dr Sabah pointed out that the joint committee set up later consisting of three teachers of the university beside representatives of the union. She added that 90 per cent of demands of students were adopted by committees set up by the university to amend the charter but they were not authorised because studies on the amendments are still being reviewed by the administration of the university. She added that the administration did not agree to return all dismissed students as these students should submit petitions to the students affairs committee to study their cases according to agreement between students and the administration.

Meanwhile, Dr Sabah described the decision of the students union to suspend the strikes that was supposed to start Saturday as a positive step to restore stability and calm to the campus. But she supported the statement of the minister of higher education that strikes will not help and there should be dialogue between students and the university. This is the perfect way to solve problems in civilised societies, she said.

Price review

THE deputy chairman of Sabahiya and Ahmadi Co-operative Society Hamdan Al Utaibi called on the co-operative societies to take an urgent stand towards the increase of prices of commodities by the union of co-operative societies. The co-operative societies should restrict the increase in prices in co-operation with the union, he said and added that co-operatives should boycott commodities supplied by the union if the union refuses to respond to these restrictions. The official said that the union became a factor of increase of prices more than companies and importers. He added that increase of prices of commodities by the union will reduce sales of co-operatives and increase pressure on consumers.

Otaibi gave examples for the noticeable increase of many commodities sold at the co-operatives and supplied by the union like: Lurpak Danish Butter from KD 14.250 to KD 17.450; Cerelac for children from KD 13.600 to KD 15.500; Moroccan canned fish from KD 8.300 to KD 9.250; Biscuit Tuc (small size) from KD 9.600 to KD 12.500 and salted Tuc biscuit from KD 6.800 to KD 8.140. He added that some of these items were increased several times during this year.

Bootlegger gets 3 years

A KUWAITI has been sentenced to three years in jail with hard labour and fined KD 300 by the Criminal Court for bootlegging.

According to police sources, the suspect was driving his car at high speed at Sixth Ring Road and was stopped by a police patrol. On calling for his driving licence, the accused produced his nationality certificate and claimed that he was driving fast as had an urgent appointment.

Called to open the boot of the car, the convict tried to escape. Police restrained him and forcibly opened the boot and found eight cartons containing 12 bottles of whisky each.

considered to be an accessory to the theft of a national asset and will be subject to prosecution under the Oman penal code.

Oman's spasmodic rainfall and need to conserve water had become an issue of national concern, the spokesman said, prompting government moves to bring all wells and well drilling under state control.

Oman imposes sanctions against illegal drillers

MUSCAT, May 22. (AP): Rogue water drillers hunting water without a state permit now face police prosecution and a 5,000-rial (\$13,000) fine in this desert Gulf state, a Water Resources Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Public warnings to owners of power shovels, compressors and pneumatic drills appeared in

official English and Arabic language newspapers yesterday. They followed state legislation introduced April prohibiting private water well drilling without government sanction.

"The police will enforce the law by ensuring that water contractors are in possession of official registration certificates and well ownership permits," the

spokesman said. "The police will monitor the movement of water tankers and drillers."

A royal decree issued in November 1988 by Oman's ruler Sultan Qaboos declared water a national resource regardless of land ownership.

Regulations announced on April 15, in the sultanate's

official gazette stated permits were required for both existing and new wells.

"A 5,000-rial fine will be applied to all without exception and no excuse will be accepted, for example, if a machine driver is drilling without the land owner's knowledge," the public notice said. "Drilling of wells without permits will be con-

sidered to be an accessory to the theft of a national asset and will be subject to prosecution under the Oman penal code."

Oman's spasmodic rainfall and need to conserve water had become an issue of national concern, the spokesman said, prompting government moves to bring all wells and well drilling under state control.

Credit programme

Iraq to get more review

WASHINGTON, May 22. (AP): The US Agricultural Department said yesterday it would undertake a more searching look at Iraqi credit purchases of US farm produce, including payments above the market price that may have provided cash rebates.

Officials said an administrative review so far "uncovered no evidence" to suggest that there has been diversion of commodities sold to Iraq for illegal purposes.

Undersecretary Richard Crowder, in releasing a report of the review, said the US government "has not incurred any losses" as a result of Iraq's use of the programme.

The department's review involved credit guarantees for up to three years. The department, through its Commodity Credit Corp., does not lend the money but stands behind commercial banks who do.

Iraq has used the guarantees to buy more than \$4.5 billion worth of US commodities since 1983. Kelly Shipp, spokeswoman for Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter, said about \$30 million is left in the first \$500 million worth of guarantees for Iraq this fiscal year. A decision on the second \$500 million will be held up while the additional review is made.

Among the potential irregularities checked by the department was a "stamp tax" of an unspecified amount that Iraq had requested of some exporters. Iraq has agreed to exempt the credit shipments in the future.

The report said the administrative review, which included a visit to Baghdad last month, suggested additional inquiry into two key areas.

One question involves the extent and reasons for high prices in 1987. Prices paid by Iraq appear to be at least 10 per cent higher than typical world prices for rice and corn, and 15 to 40 higher for sugar.

Another uncertainty was the extent of services that may have been provided in connection with the credit sales and whether the values of those sales were properly reported.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Pre-1980 model ban decision comes under fire

Request to lower insurance

By Fawzi Al Tamimi

A NUMBER of owners of pilgrimage caravans have called on the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to reconsider its decision to prevent pre-1980 model vehicles from being used in the caravan. They claimed that the decision came late and they do not have the opportunity to

buy new vehicles or rent new business. Some of them suggested a reduction in the insurance that should be paid by caravans to get a licence from KD5,000 to KD10,000. They however praised the services offered by the pilgrimage affairs committee of the ministry.

Commenting on prices of the caravans for this year, they stressed that prices are now stable and different from that of last year. They added that they set up a committee to unify prices, develop services for pilgrims and to establish a special fund to support caravans that have accidents during the pilgrimage season.

They pointed out that buses used by the caravans are in good condition even

though they are of old models (1979 or 1978) because they are used only for two months during the pilgrimage season. They suggested that the Ministry of Awqaf co-operate with the traffic department to make required technical inspections on these buses before departure to Saudi Arabia and to decide to run or stop the use of these buses.



Prepared hoardings (left) and (right) up on display. Pictures by Majid Sukkar.

Calligraphers busy preparing signs for council elections

Stiff competition

By Diana Abou Haidar

Arab Times staff

BUSY at work in their little shops, calligraphers are among the most enthusiastic for the upcoming Interim National Council elections. "Business has picked up by 50 per cent during the last ten days," says Mohamed Mostafa working on a 122 x 80 cm wooden sign outside his shop in Hawalli. "The closer we get to election date, the more business we get."

It takes Mostafa about 5 minutes to complete a sign that contains an average of 15 words. Such signs usually say vote for your candidate so and so running for this or the other constituency. "The most popular signs are white, but sometimes we do them in other bright colours. We also make big canvas signs to be posted near a candidate's campaign tent," says Mostafa bent over an unfinished sign with a big brush of red paint in one hand, and a paper tissue to wipe his perspiring face in the other.

For every campaign, Mostafa and his two colleagues make about 30 to 50 signs. "We charge anywhere from KD400 to 500 per campaign

depending on the number and type of signs requested.

But although there is plenty of work to go around, some calligraphers believe that the profit they are making is significantly reduced by severe competition not only from other calligraphy shops but also from calligraphers operating from home.

"They don't have rents to pay or overhead expenses, so they can afford to charge minimal rates," explains Fakhri Abdul Rahman, another calligrapher who has finished work for 4 campaigns and is getting ready to start on the fifth soon. "Also some big advertising companies that were not interested in such kind of work before have stepped in and are proving to be strong competition, and prices of supplies such as wood have increased since the campaigns have started."

Abdul Rahman adds that some calligraphy shops are offering free gifts of inscribed marble or copper plaques with the signs. "But this competition has affected the quality of work negatively," says the seasoned calligrapher. "Some signs are done very poorly. The emphasis seems to be on cheap rather than on good work."

Arab notables protest US policies in Mideast

(Continued from Page 1)

Watan newspaper). Professor Fuad Zakaria from Kuwait University and Fuad Al Taher, a Palestinian financier.

Speaking on the issue of Soviet emigration to occupied Palestine, the message said, "needless to say, this massive emigration would have never materialised, had it not been for the continuous American pressure on the Soviet Union during the last two decades."

It stressed that the American administration has been pushing for opening the doors for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union under the pretext of "human rights."

"It turned out that they were restricted to the rights of Soviet Jews. Their aim proved to be an almost compulsory emigration to Israel," said the message, noting that "had those emigrants freely chosen their destination, 85 per cent of them would have not chosen Israel, as the statistics of previous years have shown."

The message stated that the American policy was "incompatible" with principles that should guide the conduct of the greatest nation in protest-day history, as well with the best interest of that nation.

"It is incompatible with principles because human rights lose their meaning and even become self contradictory, as soon as they are applied in a selective manner, favouring one people at the expense of another," it emphasised.

And added, "this policy is incompatible with the best interests of the American people because it continues to be partial in favour of Israel" and "such partiality seems to be a meaningless continuation of an outdated strategy of confrontation and cold war."

Appealing to Bush, the message said it hopes that Bush's administration would contribute in laying down the basis for a just peace in the Middle East by adopting a balanced position between concerned parties.

"To achieve such a balance," the message said, "the USA should demonstrate her adherence to the principles of self-determination and international legitimacy, not only in giving an unqualified guarantee to Israel's existence and survival, but also by helping the Palestinian people establish their own independent state on their soil."

Concluding, it stressed, "the opening of America's gates for Soviet Jews is, in our opinion, an imperative step, so as to prevent the Middle East from being pushed in the vicious circle of new devastating wars, and laying down the basis for peace based on justice."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives

KUWAIT, May 22, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

HH also received Egyptian Minister of State for Administrative Development Affairs Atif Obaid during which he delivered a message from President Hosni Mubarak to HH the Amir.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, May 22, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah met here yesterday with the Pakistani Ambassador Zahed Said Khan. The meeting, according to Sheikh Saad's office, reviewed arrangements for the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Kuwait scheduled at the beginning of next month.

Sheikh Issa receives

MANAMA, May 22, (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa received here today Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Faisal Mohammad Al Hajj.

The two sides tackled bilateral relations and latest developments in the region in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Indian exams

APRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait has stated that the diploma examination and admission test of All India Management Association will be held at the Indian Embassy premises at 34, Shara Istiqlal at the following schedule:

Part I, II and III
First session ... 0700 - 1000 hrs.
Second session ... 1130 - 1430 hrs.
Concerned candidates are advised to contact Rattan Singh, attache at the Indian embassy immediately.

Medical graduates

The medical sciences centre at Kuwait University held a ceremony at the faculty of medicine to distribute graduation certificates to graduates of the faculty of medicine and faculty of assisting medicine and nursing for the academic year 88/1989. The ceremony was attended by the public health minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan, Undersecretary of Ministry of Higher Education Dr Musaad Al Haroun and senior officials of the ministry and faculties.

Four years jail for stamp fraud

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a public employee to four years in jail and order his services terminated in the public sector after fining him KD6,000, while the court acquitted two others.

The court heard that the defendant was in charge of selling stamps at an official public concern and that he had stamps in his possession totalling in value KD30,183; however, when another fellow employee wanted to take over while the original want on leave a deficit was discovered in the available cash compared to the value of the stamps in the amount of KD6,000.

The employers referred all three persons believed involved in the incident to the public prosecution and the court discovered that only one was to blame while the two others were innocent.

Joint GCC projects of special importance

THE secretary-general of the follow-up bureau at the GCC Council of Social Affairs and Labour ministers Kamel Saleh Al Saleh has said that the Gulf projects so far accomplished or under completion are considered the quintessence of joint regional labour. They are based on considerations of cost-effectiveness, time and result from the inter co-ordinations and integration among the members.

He told a local daily that it is essential for addressing all major social development problems to co-ordinate efforts and take joint action. This formula has given the joint projects special importance in the GCC march of co-operation.

He said that the joint production of TV and radio programmes in co-operation with the bureau helped to stress major social problems with growing importance in the region. These relate to the effects of juvenile delinquency, arbitrary divorce, imbalanced marriages, erroneous social practices, the effects of foreign baby-sitters and others on the social structure.

He said that the unified Arab Gulf guide to the professional description and classification acquires its importance from the nature of the role it plays in the field of planning of resources, organisation and operation of workforces, development and co-ordination of guidance and education programmes, vocational training, data collection, statistical information all well-set in relation to the labour sector.

The guide provides a classification listing of all job titles, and common posts in the GCC countries, which accounts for 1891 different jobs. They are all carefully described and characterised in terms of their classification levels and related qualifications.

The guide is characterised with its high versatility and flexibility of use and development to cope with all different variables, Saleh said.

Dead sheep

Egypt holds Italian ship

CAIRO, May 22, (Reuters): Egypt detained an Italian ship after 100 dead sheep were washed up on its Mediterranean coast, a spokesman for the Suez Canal said today.

Authorities stopped the 493-tonne Silba Aprica Livestock Carrier as it headed for the Red Sea at the southern tip of the canal yesterday after 90 carcasses were found on a beach between Port Said and Damietta.

The spokesman said authorities were checking whether the dead sheep came from the ship.

An Australian official in Cairo said last week that canal authorities prevented a Saudi Arabian-owned ship carrying 17,000 live Australian sheep from sailing through the waterway after Riyadh rejected the animals as diseased.

Meanwhile the Lebanese authorities have warned that a ship load of sick sheep is trying to enter Lebanese ports after the refusal of several countries to receive it.

Lebanese agriculture ministry called on all Lebanese ports to take the necessary measures to ban the entrance of the vessel and the unloading of its shipment.

Two weeks ago some Arab Gulf countries banned the entry of a sheep-loaded ship and the unloading of the sheep which suffer from scab. Official circles here speculate that this is the same ship.

US pledges to keep Gulf lanes open

Patrols to continue

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

THE US is fostering a close but low profile relationship with the GCC states which includes a formal military training agreement, joint navy training exercises and the US pledge of military assistance in case of threat, the commander of the US Joint Task Force in the Middle East has said.

Speaking aboard the guided missile frigate USS Reid, now docked at Kuwait's Shuaiba Port, Rear Admiral William Fogarty reiterated US commitment to the Gulf region and said: "It is a low-key but professional arrangement (that we have with the Gulf states)."

"I can say with surety, if there is a threat up here to our friends in the Gulf or to the freedom of navigation I'll have more forces drawn here to take care of that," the admiral said.

The United States currently maintains several warships in the

Arahian Gulf and an aircraft carrier battle group in the Gulf of Oman.

The level of its forces in what he called the volatile but strategically important region depends on the threat as perceived by Washington and the GCC countries, according to Fogarty.

The US views the situation in the Gulf after the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war with "cautious optimism" but continues to patrol the waterway also to counterbalance the tension as regional powers vie for supremacy.

Improvements in US-Soviet relations have not affected the size of the US fleet in the Gulf, he said. Moscow currently has 10 to 12 ships in the waterway, the same number it had during the Gulf war.

Close ties between the US and Kuwait were forged when in 1987 Washington agreed to reflag 11 Kuwaiti tankers and provide them with navy protection in the

international waters. The US navy performed 380 escort missions without fatalities, Fogarty said. Five Kuwaiti-owned tankers still fly the American flag. Since 1987 the US navy also swept and destroyed 120 mines in channels on routes used by tankers.

"They buy equipment from the United States and with that comes training," said Fogarty referring to GCC states collectively. He also said that the Joint Task Force and individual GCC states' navies periodically have "low key small-scale training exercises." This helps the US assess these countries' capabilities and limitations, he added.

He stressed that the US is actively seeking to strengthen relations with the GCC countries. "Our commitment is to work with each other and to get to know each other better and have this feeling of unity in a goal to keep the Arabian Gulf free for commerce," said the admiral.



USS Reid.

First event at new UAE expocentre Oct 10-26

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22, (Kuna): Five Malaysian furniture-makers have individually signed up for the 14th expo international fair to be held at the new Emirates Expo Centre in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from Nov 25 to Dec 7, a fair spokesman said today.

Peter Williams, international sales director of the world trade and expo centre told a news conference here that the new \$2.3 million expo centre was located between Dubai and Sharjah, the twin growth cities of the Gulf states in the 1990s.

He said the expo centre had appointed a local firm, Malaysian Exhibitions Management Pte Ltd (MEMS), to co-ordinate the participation of Malaysian firms and government agencies in the fair.

Williams, who is here to encourage more Malaysian firms and government agencies to take part in exhibitions in the UAE, said the new exposition centre would have 80,000 sq metres of exhibition space compared with 60,000 sq metres at the old site.

The UAE's 15th autumn fair from Oct 10 to 26 will be the first event to be held at the ultra-modern exhibition site.

He said the oil boom is back after the end of the Iran-Iraq war, adding: "A strong market potential exists in the area."

Williams said the expo centre would attempt to seek participation from Malaysia on a national basis from next year as more local firms become aware of the business potential in the UAE.

He said the expo centre would also help exhibitors meet leading entrepreneurs and government officials who are likely purchasers of the goods exhibited at the fairs by making official introductions to eliminate the time-consuming efforts to seek out decision makers.

He added apart from the strong purchasing power of the UAE, there was a strong re-export potential to other countries in the Gulf, including Iran and Iraq.

Zayed - Suharto meet for one hour

JAKARTA, May 22, (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan today had talks with Indonesian President Suharto on endeavours for further Islamic solidarity, Mideast peace process and boosting of bilateral relations.

Official Indonesian sources described the two countries' relations as "very strong, based on Islamic brotherly ties and mutual understanding" in different fields.

The Indonesian president said during a dinner banquet which he held in honour of Sheikh Zayed that the visit is very important as it came at a time when the Indonesian economy has entered an important stage and as dynamic and important regional and international developments were taking place.

He added that while the world's economy was facing a lot of challenges the UAE and Indonesia, as members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), bear joint responsibility to strengthen and boost the unity and solidarity in the organisation for the international and the two countries interest.

Sheikh Zayed, for his part, hailed the Indonesian-UAE relations saying they are based on co-operation and Islamic bonds.

The UAE president called on the Islamic leaders to unite and face the current developments and challenges.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian papers welcomed Sheikh Zayed's visit which began yesterday. He earlier visited China and Japan.

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Notice is hereby given to the public that the company will not honour any payment or transaction supported by such vouchers.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

CAN understand the danger of the atomic bomb, but the danger of our misunderstanding the meaning of life is much more serious — Edward Steichen, photographer.

Reasoning prevails Taiwan fantasy days numbered

TAIPEI, Taiwan, (AP): On this island where fantasy has long dictated policy, reality is taking hold and may help improve relations with China and stimulate democratic change at home.

The myth here has long been that the ruling Nationalist Party, which retreated to Taiwan after losing a civil war to communist forces in 1949, is still the sole legitimate government of China.

That myth has been used to justify the party's policy of no official contact with the rival government in Beijing and to justify the party's monopoly on political power.

But events of the past week, culminating in the inaugural address of President Lee Teng-hui on Sunday, clearly show that the days of fantasy are drawing to a close.

To be sure, the Nationalist government still calls itself the "Republic of China" and says reunification with the Chinese mainland is the ultimate goal.

Acknowledged

But Defence Minister Hau Pei-tsun, the premier-designate, on Wednesday said something that no top official had previously acknowledged in public: that China today is "one country with two governments."

And in his inauguration speech, Lee urged for markedly improved relations with Beijing and "channels of communication" that could eventually lead to talks on reunification.

In effect, he was signalling a desire to end the 40-year-old hard-line Nationalist Policy toward the Chinese communist known as the "three nos" — no official contact, no negotiations and no compromise.

There is a catch, however, the Nationalists are demanding that Beijing renounce the threat of force against Taiwan, end its policy of isolating Taiwan diplomatically and scrap one-party communist rule.

"We sincerely hope the Chinese communists will become cognizant of the trends of the times," Lee said in his address, referring to the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Beijing's hard-line leaders would never agree to such preconditions. But since they too seek improved relations and eventual reunification, they could conceivably respond positively to Taiwan's pragmatic offensive.

Breakthrough

While Taiwanese officials do not expect an immediate breakthrough, they hope relations will improve as civilian and business contacts expand. Indirect trade across the Taiwan Straits was an estimated \$4 billion last year, and Taiwan residents have made about 1 million visits to the Chinese mainland since travel was first allowed in late 1987.

"We want to gradually expand our contact by peaceful ways," government spokesman Shaw Yu-Ming recently told a group of foreign journalists. "We have to move in measured steps... it's not a very action-packed kind of approach."

Lee also said he wanted to quickly scrap the 1947 "mobilization for the suppression of the communist rebellion."

Not only would this mean Taiwan would no longer view the Beijing government as a rebel group, but it would also lift legal provisions that have guaranteed the Nationalist Party a lock on power.

Under the provisions, the legislature and electoral college are dominated by Nationalists who were elected in mainland China before the civil war defeat. The theory is they cannot be replaced until their constituencies are recaptured and new elections held.

But the mainland-elected parliamentarians are dying fast and the island's 20 million people, 85 per cent of whom are native Taiwanese, are demanding a greater say in government.

Replacing

Lee on Sunday gave a two-year timetable for replacing the provisions with constitutional amendments that would establish "a great model of political democracy for all times."

He also stressed the importance of securing fair competition among political parties, indicating an understanding that future legitimacy must come from the people, not from the myth.

Still, the promise of greater democracy is viewed sceptically by many students and opposition party members, who view Lee's decision to nominate the country's only four-star general as premier to be a step back toward the Nationalists' authoritarian past.

But the nomination of defence minister Hau Pei-tsun also is viewed less sinisterly as an attempt by Lee to shore up his support among party elders and to crack down on rampant corruption and crime.

Government spokesman Shaw said military rule or a return to authoritarianism would be impossible.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1455 — Battle of Saint Albans is fought in War of the Roses.

1568 — William of Orange defeats Spanish force at Brill in the Netherlands.

1618 — Thirty years war begins as Bohemian rebels triumph in Prague.

1701 — Captain William Kidd is hanged in London after being convicted of piracy and murder.

1853 — Constitution of Argentine republic goes into effect.

1911 — Russia warns Turkey to withdraw its troops from Montenegro frontier.

1926 — Lebanon is proclaimed a republic by France.

1939 — Britain's Parliament approves plan for independent Palestine by 1949, which later is denounced by Jews and Arabs in Palestine.

1949 — German Federal Republic comes into effect with capital at Bonn.

1969 — Death toll in Malaysia rioting exceeds 500, with 90 per cent of casualties Chinese.

1971 — Death toll is put at 1,000 in earthquake that destroys town of Bingöl in eastern Turkey.

1977 — South Moluccan exiles in Netherlands hold 161 hostages in elementary school and hijack train in effort to get Dutch help in their fight for independence from Indonesia.

1983 — South African fighter planes rocket and strafe alleged guerrilla bases in Mozambique to retaliate for car-bomb attack near air force headquarters in Pretoria three days earlier.

1984 — Iranian and Iraqi forces clash along their battlefield amid expectations of a new initiative to arrest the escalating tension in the Gulf over the bombing of oil tankers.

1988 — Hungary's Communist Party outlines sweeping political and economic changes designed to salvage nation's faltering economy.

1989 — Ayatollah Khomeini remains in precarious condition after surgery.

Observers satisfied with Romania elections NSF placed on 2-year probation

BUCHAREST, (Reuters): Foreign observers have given qualified endorsement to Romania's elections but have placed President Ion Iliescu's National Salvation Front (NSF) on two years' probation because of doubts over its political integrity.

The probation will last until the newly-elected constituent assembly completes its work in 1992 and fresh elections are held, the observers said.

Sunday's elections drew accusations ranging from mild criticism of inefficiency to sharp rebukes for widespread electoral fraud.

A US team sent by President George Bush to observe the elections, flagged by the Romanians as the first free polls for 50 years, provided a fillip to Iliescu when it declared on Monday they were properly conducted and free from serious fraud.

"Iliescu will have breathed a big sigh of relief when he heard that," said one Romanian official source.

Watch

The observers indicated the outside world would watch Romania closely over the next two years after voters gave emphatic support for the centre-left NSF in Sunday's election.

The vote, if confirmed when results are announced later this week, goes radically against the trend in other Eastern European countries, where East Germany and Hungary have both opted for centre-right governments against reformed communists.

The Romanian poll may give hope to Bulgarian and Czechoslovak communists, who will be fighting for their survival in elections next month.

The NSF began life as a joyful mixture of intellectuals, dissidents and former communists dancing live on Romanian television on Dec 22 in celebration of the toppling of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Five months later, elections were held in a climate of suspicion and accusations that the NSF had squeezed out the intellectuals and dissidents, leaving only hard-nosed politicians with close links to the country's communist past.

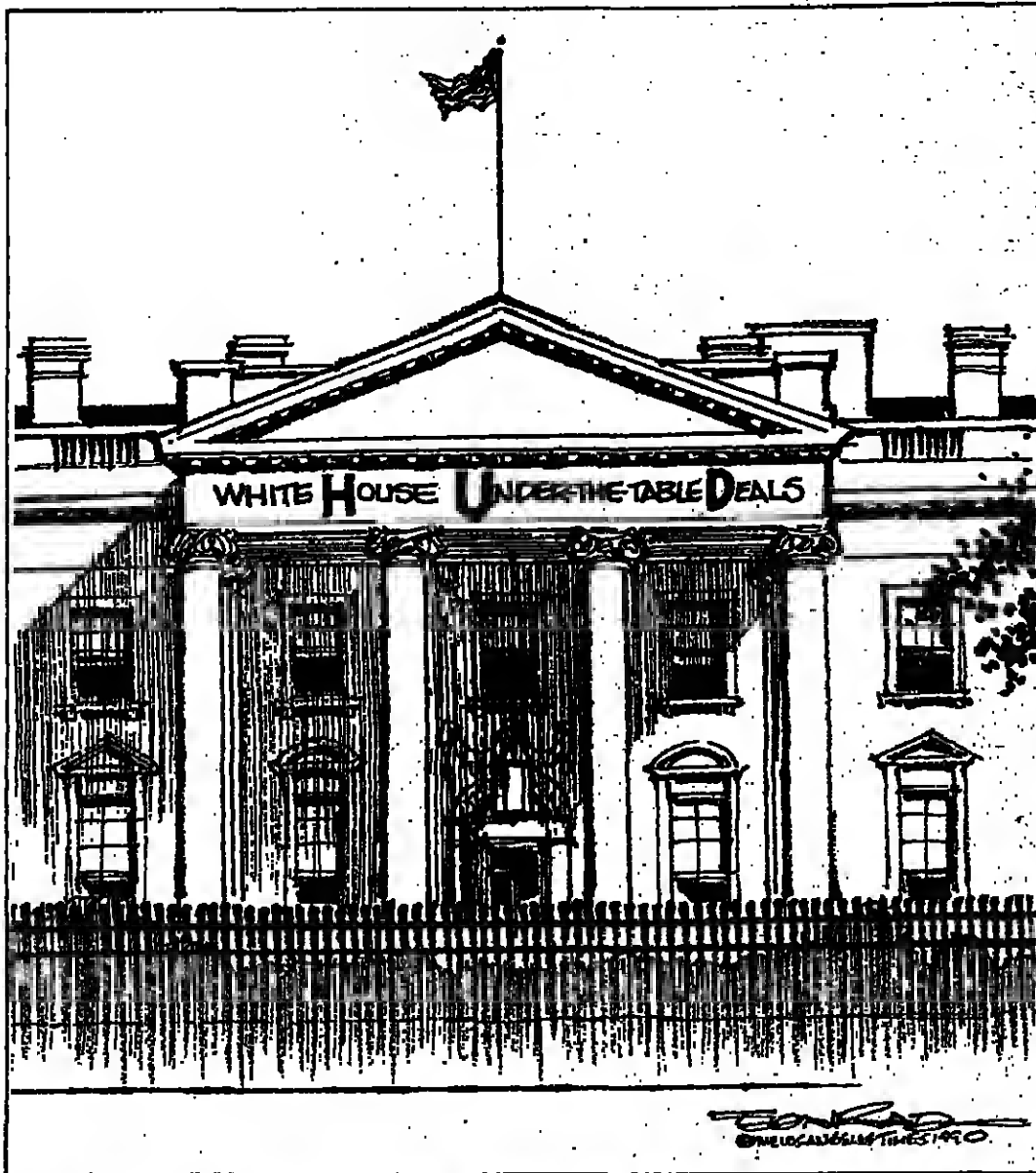
Dissidents Ana Blandiana and Doina Cornea, who earned world-wide respect for their bravery during the Ceausescu era, left the Front in disgust, saying it had been hijacked by the politicians.

The departures did not affect the Front's huge support.

The NSF denies it is communist, saying it was the catalyst for the violent revolution last December.

"We have proved over the past five months that we have made a total break with the past," Iliescu told Reuters on Monday.

Computer predictions based on an exit poll by a



West German institute shows support for Iliescu in some parts of Romania was more than 95 per cent, a figure reminiscent of the days when Ceausescu was the only candidate.

Better world

SIR: We want to see our children die natural deaths. They have their birth-right to live peacefully in this world.

Mr President (USA), we are sure you have the guts to take the initiative like you did in Panama.

Mr President (USSR) your "glasnost and perestroika" created hope in the world to live and let live. To keep this hope alive, you need to join hands together. If both of you join hands in every manner, the world will experience a profound change.

Presidents, you take pride in drafting higher defence budgets — have you ever thought some Third World countries' whole budgets are less than your defence budget? Do you have time to read WHO or UNICEF's reports? Then you can imagine how many children are dying every year in the world due to non-availability of the medicine, nutritious food and fresh air.

Immocent

Why is the "Goddess of Democracy" sailing towards China? May we remind you regarding your request not to hang some innocent democratic leaders previously? Please stop the "Goddess of Democracy" otherwise some innocent people will be hanged or killed by the government because of the message of the "Goddess of Democracy".

Look at Lebanon — democracy and human rights are crying for help and appealing to the civilised world to save it. But nobody is listening. Is it not possible to stop selling arms and ammunition in Lebanon? Why won't you tell those who are involved in 15 years' civil war that all aid will stop if they don't stop fighting each other, and free all hostages? You are not taking action because you will lose a regular customer for your arms and ammunition.

Do you ever feel for the homeless people? If your replies are yes, then why are you not feeling for the Palestinian people? Why are they homeless, landless and countryless? Why can't they live like other independent nations? Why are you sending thousands of Soviet Jews to resettle in Israel whereas they are having their own home in the Soviet Union? Why will be held responsible for all this mess in the eyes of the world? You will be because you cannot let Israel to return the occupied land and go within international demarcations. Let Palestinian people build their independent state and stop the inflow of Soviet Jews.

Elections

Why can't you force the Afghan government to conduct free and fair elections under UN supervision? Let the Afghan people decide their future. You are doing nothing about it because a big portion of your defence budget's deficit fund is coming through sales of arms and ammunition.

We also would like to draw your kind attention to "drugs" which are another kind of ammunition to kill future generation of the world. Everybody knows these slow poisons are not dropping from the sky. Some brain-washed demoralized humans are producing this poison on earth. Who are they? No government in the world will say, yes, we know.

Slogans are not the remedy of problems. We the suffering peoples of the world are appealing to you please stop producing arms and ammunition and raw-material and accessories of drugs, to save the present and the future generation. Being the world leaders, these are your responsibilities, and this is the time to take such universal decisions to save the world nations, otherwise future generations will not excuse us.

M. R. Rahman,

Kuwait.

High air fare

SIR: Indians are happy to note that their national carrier achieved an operating profit of over \$66.47 million the highest in the airline's 57-year history, during 89/90 as announced by the managing director of AI Rajan Jetley. It is good news

that Air India is making profit.

The bad news is, in spite of the huge profit shown, and having made the lion's share of this profit from the Gulf Indians, yet the home carrier is implementing rigid rules as far as personal baggage is concerned, allowing only 20 kilos per passenger, under the guise that these rules are being implemented officially here.

With the air fare gone considerably high which gives better revenue to the airlines, the bargaining on excess baggage is to be relaxed as the passengers cannot afford to travel with just 20 kilos of personal baggage when they are going home after 1-2 years of service here. Neither can be passenger pay excess baggage charges which amounts to nearly KD2 per kilo for Bombay/Delhi/Goa.

The expatriates would make a plea to the air carriers to jointly allow at least 30 kilos per passenger in view of the high cost of travel and low salaries/income at present. The various community associations should make joint efforts in presenting a memorandum to the concerned authorities in Kuwait who would certainly take a benevolent view of the situation, as they are aware of expatriates' financial difficulties.

Meanwhile, Indians here would be grateful to Air India officials if they relax the 20 kilos baggage allowances to 30 passengers — as AI has made huge profits and can afford to relax the rigid implementation of 20 kilos per passenger.

Vincent De Souza,

Convener Kuwait/Goa AI Flights Committee.

Give up smoking

SIR: This is with reference to an article on women smokers in Kuwait.

This article seems to glorify smoking, and the prospect of more and more women smokers, and seems to encourage women to come out into the open more and more and smoke in public. All this at a time when, all over the world, including here, public smoking is being banned as a health nuisance to the people who are unwillingly forced to be secondary smokers by inhaling the unwanted smoke of nearby smokers, these being men, women, and children.

The habit of smoking is extremely unhealthy, undignified, and is a menace to society as well. Not to mention the fact that these women are doing untold harm to themselves as well as their unborn babies.

I realise that Kuwait is a developing country to all intents and purposes and many of the women here tend to look toward the West for their guidance and lifestyles and unfortunately seem to have chosen only the undesirable aspects of our societies: immodest dress, bad health habits, and immoral way of life. The West has been fervently searching for some system of life that will make the people peaceful and happy — the people of Islam have had that life and are now throwing it away.

Lady smokers and those who are thinking of starting! It is certainly not fashionable, civilised, or educated to smoke. As you may have already discovered (and if not, you soon will) smoking does not make you beautiful. On the contrary, it makes you ugly; it increases wrinkles, discolours your teeth, and, as I've seen especially among the Arabic people, it discolours your lips and gums as well.

You ladies should be ashamed not proud! You who smoke should be doing everything you can to quit. I don't say it will be easy; I know from experience that cigarettes are like a drug and are psychologically addictive as well as physically, but, I know it can be done!

I find it extremely sad and pitiful that these women have these attitudes, and I urge and implore them to open their eyes wider and see that smoking and drinking are the scourges of the West, and if they are so adamant on copying the West, then let them copy the good aspects, such as good education, health consciousness, scientific and technical advancements, etc.

Ladies, beware! If this trend continues unchecked and you keep on throwing away your

good customs and traditions, and continue to forget about Islam, this country will go down the drain right along with the West — look where they are now! You should know that the people who usually suffer the most in such societies are ultimately the women.

Just be sure that I didn't write this out of any kind of arrogance, or because I think I'm any better than any of you, except for the fact that I've been in your place, and reached myself from it. I only speak to you because I care about you and about this society, because you are my sisters now, and Kuwait is my home and this comes straight from the heart. So, please heed my advice and wake up and smell the roses (that probably don't smell half as good anymore because your sense of smell has been somewhat killed by all that smoke, but don't worry, you can turn all that around.) Just quit!

Mia Pozzo,

Safat.

Show true facts

SIR: In reference to the letter "Wrong protection" in your daily of 16/5/90, my thousand apologies to Dr Elias Furtado, MD for having failed to appoint him as my "image boosting" agent in Dubai, in place of Dr Dominic Sanchez.

I overlooked the very fact that while I could hire such a highly qualified candidate locally, I had rushed all the way down to Dubai! What a waste!

As Furtado claims that he knows the true facts of the show in Goa, by supporting the letters of Jacinto Diaz and Lawrence D'Souza, who among themselves have two different stories! While Diaz writes the figure as 1,000 people in a club hall present, D'Souza is so sure that there were 2,000 of them — but where?

In reality the New Year dance was held in the open air on a large asphalted ground (locally known as Road show) barricaded (of about 4 acres) from all sides, but one as entrance, and a massive stage erected facing the "Club International" — the organisers.

Now after going through all this "yellow journalism," we have a strong feeling that the same writers, out of frustration, have written those first two letters and then onwards supported them — good job. The reason? I put it plainly, they could not digest a "Mangalorean" girl being crowned as Ms. Goa — 1990 on their home ground, because for years some of the black sheep among these two Catholic communities cannot tolerate the other, for the good reason only known to them.

Since the show and contest was opened to every paying person, and with the encouragement of our well-wishers in Goa, Susan participated. If she knew in advance that these kind of tricks are also practised in Goa, she would care less to waste her time and talent.

Yes, they did arrange to crown another girl from Bardez who was only a second runner-up to Susan at the earlier show, 100 metres away in less than two hours time to deny Susan her rightful place to represent Goa for Ms. India (Goa Today of Feb 90).

Furtado should know that Susan has already proved her worth and earned an image in every place she visited (and in Kuwait) which rightfully in hers. Or, is he trying to project his own image by adding his big titles which he could have lost while in London for his MDI because, while the rest of the world has totally forgotten the political propaganda on Ms. Pamela Boydes, as — crap! it is a real pity that our friend is still burning midnight candles in her golden memories, shedding silver tears!

Albert Josy Rego,

Asqool.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Summit

Soviet decline to top agenda

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Officially they meet as equals to discuss global security issues. But the real task facing George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev at their summit next week in Washington will be how to handle the decline of the Soviet Union into economic crisis, many analysts believe.

The theme will hardly be addressed in public. The headlines will speak of arms control, the Baltic crisis, trade agreements and German unification.

But underlying Soviet decision-making is an economic crisis that is pushing the country and its people deeper into penury.

"The Soviet Union is a superpower only in one sense — it has the military might," said one US official.

Nation

"In most other senses, it is a poor, badly managed, underdeveloped, massively polluted, technologically backward nation. That is why we need stability to manage its decline. Change must be managed in a way that doesn't put the entire planet at risk."

Discussing Gorbachev's May 30-June 3 visit to Washington, another State Department official said: "The business of this summit is to move towards a new relationship that is built on the realities of the situation."

It is not only a question of managing the decline of the Soviet Union so as to preserve international stability but also using it to achieve some goals we've had for years but never viewed as realistic."

One of these is building a new security order in Europe, with a united Germany firmly anchored to the Western alliance at its heart.

Bush is likely to push Gorbachev on this, and though he will meet resistance, US officials are convinced Gorbachev must eventually give way.

Accords

Another US goal is concluding arms control accords that remove the vast Soviet superiority in conventional forces in Europe and give a numerical and qualitative edge to the West.

Though they are close to a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) slashing their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons, US-Soviet talks on a Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty have bogged down.

Bush will try to give those talks new momentum to complete an agreement by the end of the year.

"Gorbachev needs arms control," the State Department official said, "because it's a way of cutting military spending, which could be as high as 40 per cent of Soviet gross domestic product."

The United States of course wants to cut military spending, as well but the urgency of its need is on a different scale.

According to Keith Armes, a Soviet scholar with Boston University's Institute for the Study of Conflict, few Americans even at the highest levels appreciate the true extent of the Soviet Union's economic plight.

On his fourth visit to Moscow last week, Secretary of State James Baker walked around the city in relative anonymity, peering into shops. He was amazed at the bare shelves, the long queues and the wretched quality of the products he saw.

Economy

"The Soviet economy is a catastrophe," said Armes, "and Gorbachev badly needs whatever boost the summit can give him. His ability to derive strength from foreign policy successes is weakening. Everyone is preoccupied with the economy."

One summit issue likely to be much discussed in the run-up to the meeting is whether Bush will sign a pact giving Moscow "Most Favoured Nation (MFN)" trading advantages.

Bush originally said he would if Moscow enacted legislation granting citizens the right of free emigration. Now, Bush is under pressure not to give Gorbachev any trade concessions until he agrees to negotiate independence for the Baltic republics.

Armes said any economic benefit for Moscow from MFN would be negligible since the only Soviet products sought by the West were vodka and caviar.

"If there is no trade agreement, that would be perceived as a political failure. But the economy won't benefit as long as they keep putting off the radical reforms they will eventually have to start making," said Armes.

US officials have lost much of their faith in Gorbachev's ability to deliver economic reforms. But they too want him to survive for the sake of stability.

"The hope is he can survive and democracy's tenuous roots will get stronger and give him the support he needs for economic reforms. But it's hard to be an optimist," said one official.

QUOTE ME

"Final decisions and solutions in principle were found with respect to many issues. We can now state with confidence that the state visit... will constitute an important and fruitful phase in the development of Soviet-American dialogue." — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the summit.

"It's a breakthrough in the sense that crises missed were the major elements that still had to be resolved in order to say we could conclude a START treaty." — Scowcroft saying that crisis missiles are major stumbling block to the START accord.

"By just looking and knowing on the horizon that we were less than an hour away from our homeland... everyone was crying for the personally, it was the most emotional moment in my 30 years of exile." — A Cuban who took part in a Houska demonstration off Cuban waters.

"It was not our intention to embarrass the state president on his visit to Germany. We simply wanted to occupy the of the embassy as a means to highlight our grievances." — A protesting police officer who was included in the sit-in at the West German embassy in South Africa.

"We reached an agreement that more steps should be taken to make sure that a peaceful solution be found. I believe it is extremely important for the Muslim umma (nation) to raise its voice against what is happening in Kashmir." — Benazir Bhutto to reporters in Cairo, Egypt.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

French trade deficit climbs

PARIS, May 22. (Reuters) France announced a big increase in its monthly trade deficit today, ending a series of good results and raising doubts about the government's ability to improve one of the black spots in the economy.

The seasonally adjusted trade deficit rose to 4.31 billion francs (\$765 million) in April from 1.06 billion (188 million) in March and compared with 3.7 billion (608 million) in April 1989. It brought the shortfall for the first four months of 1990 to 6.66 billion francs (\$1.18 billion).

The government made no comment on the figures but Finance Ministry sources said it was sticking to its forecast that the trade deficit would fall to 42 billion francs (\$7.50 billion) in 1990 from 43.44 billion (7.88 billion).

Economists said the earlier trend of better deficit figures this year arose from faulty seasonal adjustments. They said falling military orders and lower sales of Airbus airliners would eventually show the early improvement to be false.

France partly compensates for its deficit in manufactured goods by its ability to attract tourists. Tourism Minister Olivier Stirn was confident today that even more visitors would come this year than last, when celebrations marking the bicentenary of France's 1789 Revolution helped attract 43 million tourists.

Stirn told a news conference he expected 45 million visitors in 1990, confirming France as Europe's number one tourist destination and earning revenue of 110 billion francs (\$19.6 billion) compared with 106 billion last year.

Shares ease back from sharp rise

LONDON, May 22. (UPI) Equities came off their best levels after a steep rise on London's International Stock Exchange today fuelled by European Monetary System hopes and optimism about interest rates.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index reached 2316.2 points at 4 pm, up 34.1 points. The Financial Times 30 index stood at 1834.0 points, up 23.2 points.

Analysts said the market was encouraged by Wall Street's strong performance Monday which helped inspire dealers to drive the FTSE up through the 2300-point mark. Market hopes that Britain would enter the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS, in an action that could help ease interest rates, continued to boost trading, dealers said.

Attracted by London's recent good showing, buyers from Japan and Europe moved in to buy equities, pushing the FTSE nearly 50 points higher in early afternoon trading.

Share prices eased back, however, after Wall Street failed to hold its best level in early trading.

More than 70 firms to take part in Rebex

MORE than 70 firms will be taking part in Rebex '90, the region's first annual building exhibition to cover the northern Gulf markets to be held later this year, it was announced today.

The October exhibition is to be staged at the \$10-million Dharan Exhibition Centre which opened last year on the 90,000 square metre site in the Eastern Province of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and will run for five days from Sept 30, 1990.

Participating companies cover a cross-section of building, interior design and maintenance product and service sectors and will represent each of the Gulf states alongside exhibitors from various overseas markets.

Managing director of Roger Bullivant Al Arabia Ltd, W. G. Greene said: "We offer a service as opposed to a product and would like to expand our business throughout the Gulf region. Through Rebex '90 we will be able to meet contractors and consultants from the region and discuss our specialised foundation engineering services."

More than 8,000 visitors are expected to attend the exhibition.

Paris keen to strengthen trade ties with Gulf

France welcomes Kuwait investments

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AN offer to Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in France was extended by a senior French official.

Claude de Kemouliaria, the chairman of the French Business Council for the GCC countries during a conference on the "Economic Relations between France and Kuwait" welcomed the presence of Kuwaiti investments in France and added that "we wish you to be more present in France, more present than

buying apartments or spending good time in Paris. We would like you to know more about France which is a large country of many regions."

He also urged French exporters to spend enough time in the Gulf and be more aggressive to sell their goods. "We need more people to take the opportunity of utilising the free market particularly in Kuwait in order to develop our external trade."

Kemouliaria who is keen on developing economic relations with Gulf countries through his

visits to the Gulf region once a month said: "I have to push middle range French companies to increase business here and to encourage more GCC businessmen to invest in France."

He said that France as the fourth trade and economic power in the world coupled with its economic growth rate, its moderate inflation compared to other industrialised nations encourages it to offer more incentives to businessmen to invest in France.

The Gulf states invest more in



Claude de Kemouliaria

England than France, he said. "This is not the French responsibility, but the responsibility of the merchants in the Gulf states. Why they do not invest more in France, why they do not build joint ventures with French companies — obviously that could be the language barrier."

On fears expressed by some countries that the West will give more attention to Eastern Europe after the fall of communism, he said that "we have full sympathy with these countries and we are going to help them."

He added that this is a time consuming process in light of the East European countries existing formula, with the exception of the Soviet Union to adapt themselves to a free market system.

About the EEC and GCC cooperation, he said that both set good examples for co-operation in different fields as is evidenced in the growing rate of trade exchange between them.

"We understand that you (Gulf countries) must industrialise yourselves and that we should help participate in the industrial

isation through joint ventures and in share holders."

About petrochemicals and refineries he said: "Obviously it creates problems in some countries like in England and Holland who have big refinery systems."

"France may be less powerful in that field and we cannot let our economy be completely disturbed. But assured people in charge of these programmes with the community would solve these difficulties to shorten that period within 4 years to solve the problem."

Plan approved

Council adopts move to market economy

MOSCOW, May 22. (Reuters) Soviet citizens faced the prospect of doubled food prices after President Mikhail Gorbachev's top advisers, grappling with an economic crisis, approved a plan today to move gradually to a regulated market economy.

The president's Advisory Council made the proposal after weeks of delay marked by rumours and fears of sharp price rises and big job cuts.

"The presidential council, which met today, adopted a programme to lead the country toward a market economy," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference.

He gave no details, but Moscow Radio said the package — to be presented to parliament on

Thursday by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov — offered options for a gradual change to the regulated market economy and favoured a massive overhaul of all prices.

There are plans to double the price of foods on average," the radio said.

The proposal was approved after months of squabbling among Gorbachev's advisers as they sought a way out of the country's economic morass, one of the most serious problems facing the reformist Kremlin leader.

The battle pitted radicals pushing for a rapid switch to a full market economy against conservatives worried the Soviet Union could not withstand any shock therapy.

Many workers and politicians,

including leaders of powerful official trade unions, have expressed concern that the proposed changes would lead to a drastic fall in living standards and to public discontent.

The radio said the plan would seek to protect Soviet citizens long insulated by state subsidies from the vagaries of a market economy.

"In this connection, the government envisages a range of measures designed to ensure social security for the population and to pay compensation for the purposes of maintaining living standards," it said.

Gorbachev admitted this month that the planned reforms would lead to unemployment as efficiency and competition became watchwords in efforts to

revive the moribund economy.

"Factories are closing and have to be prepared for the transition to different production forms," he said during a visit to a sweet plant. But dislocation would be temporary.

Spokesman Gerasimov said the proposals would be discussed at a news conference.

The government daily Izvestia said yesterday that under the plan Soviet state property would be transferred in the next 10 to 15 years to various kinds of ownership, including private holdings, joint stock societies and enterprises owned by employees.

It said the programme would seek to raise retail prices to meet production costs during the first phase of the reform, but gave no timetable.

Kuwait to expand in Europe, Far East

Saudis, Iraq may expand refining

LEIDEN, Netherlands, May 22. (Agencies) Oil officials from Iraq and Saudi Arabia said today that their petroleum-producing nations may expand into refining and marketing their products abroad.

Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Raheem Al Chalabi said in a speech read on his behalf that his nation was considering buying foreign marketing and refining assets abroad to help its battered economy recover from the eight-year war with Iran.

But Chalabi also warned that Iraq would only make the necessary investments if they couldn't more profitably be made in other economic sectors.

The proposed expansion "is perhaps, and I should emphasize the word perhaps, the ideal objective which most oil-exporting countries ... seek to achieve," said Chalabi in an address to an oil industry conference here.

Chalabi wasn't present at the gathering organised by the Netherlands' oldest and most prestigious university, and the speech was read on his behalf by an official of his ministry.

Iraq is one of few Middle East nations that don't own considerable refining and marketing interests in the West, such as the Kuwait Oil Company which has its own chain of service stations, known as 8.

Chalabi said in the speech that acquiring such foreign assets would help Iraq become more independent in its petroleum production and marketing policies.

European oil experts said, however, that Iraq has often shown an interest in buying foreign assets but hasn't yet followed through any of its enquiries.

"Chalabi's Saudi Arabian counterpart, Hisham Nazer, said his government is contemplating investing in refining and marketing companies in the United States, Japan and Europe, including the Netherlands where he met with Dutch government officials earlier Monday.

Nazer told reporters that "we are very happy to talk about buying a refinery in Rotterdam," the world's largest port and the site of one of Western Europe's most spot markets for petroleum products.

"Ideally, no producer wants to sell just crude oil. The secret of industrialism lies in value added, the price of a barrel of crude versus the enhanced price of the refined barrel," Nazer said.

Kuwait was seeking to expand its markets in Europe and the Far East, and to start exporting oil to Eastern Europe, an oil-industry newsletter said Monday.

Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), the international downstream subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), is looking for opportunities to improve its market share and enter new markets in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Austria, the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) quoted KPI's vice-president as saying.

KPI was also seeking to get into the East European market, MEES says. It has plans for a joint venture with Hungary's national oil company to upgrade its distribution network, and hopes also to undertake a joint refining venture in Hungary.

In the Far East, KPI was looking at Thailand as a possible launching pad for a regional presence in the whole area, MEES said. Initially it would plan to build 200 gas and service stations and ultimately a refinery to service KPI's regional requirements.

"There is also a project to build a refinery both to supply the local market and for export," MEES quoted Al Salem as saying.

"The exports would supplement our existing supplies to these regional markets, and would also service any new networks we might develop which could be in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and even the Philippines."

Al Salem also said that Kuwait's downstream system in Europe is now capable of handling 450,000 barrels a day, following its recent acquisition of Mobil's 100,000 barrels a day Naples refinery and 2,000 service station distribution network in Italy.

This has raised its share of the Italian market from 3.5-4 per cent to 10-11 per cent.

Bonn bickers over German union

Dollar closes higher

PHILADELPHIA, May 22. (Reuters) The dollar closed higher against the mark in Europe today as uncertainty about German economic union dragged the West German currency down.

Gold closed in London \$374.75 an ounce after \$373 yesterday.

But investors were still unsure about which direction the dollar would take and they bought yen as a safeguard, pushing the Japanese currency higher.

Share prices in London, the world's biggest stock market after Tokyo and New York, rose strongly to the highest close for more than three months.

Currency dealers in Frankfurt said that political bickering in Bonn about terms for economic union with East Germany sent investors scampering away from the mark.

They said it had added to market worries about the potential inflationary effects once the West German mark is introduced into the East's ramshackle economy on July 1.

"People are getting hysterical that German reunification will trigger hyper-inflation," said one trader.

Adding to the sense of unease are fears that the position of the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, is being weakened as Bonn marches towards unification.

The dollar closed in London at 1.6705 marks and

ended the day at 1.6640 and 1.6538.

Shares in London closed firmer but off the day's highs as investors took profits from the early surge.

The market had begun strongly after a firmer Wall Street close overnight in New York.

But profit-taking was triggered by a slip on the shares futures market and a retreat from a strong start on Wall Street.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 blue chips finished 29.2 points up at 2,311.1, having touched 2,332.7.

It was the highest finish since Feb 5 when it ended at 2,348.4. London has risen 135 points in the past eight trading days, fuelled by a shortage of stock and signs that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government is softening its stand on a key issue of European Economic Community monetary policy.

There has been strong overseas buying in the expectation that Britain might soon join the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary System (EMS) which limits fluctuations between EEC member currencies.

"Those who were kicking themselves at missing this rally are now praying for bad trade figures tomorrow to drag the market down so they can get back in at lower levels," one dealer said.

Oman's oil reserves up

NICOSIA, May 22. (Reuters) Non-OPEC Oman has said that its oil reserves are more than doubled in the last 10 years, keeping it an oil exporter until the end of the century.

The Oman news agency today quoted Saleh Bin Shaaban, under-secretary at the Oil Ministry as saying reserves increased from two billion barrels in 1979 to 4.3 billion in 1990.

Speaking at a seminar last night in the Omani capital, Muscat, Shaaban said the country's oil in place was estimated at 50 billion barrels but its extraction needed technologically complex recovery methods.

The agency reported Shaaban as saying that Oman, which is not a member in the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, was working to raise its present oil output of 650,000 barrels per day (bpd) by another 50,000 barrels.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, May 22. (Reuters): A stronger yen helped the market regain ground lost in the morning. Steel issues led other domestic demand related issues higher. The Nikkei ended 173.25 up at 31,938.30.

SYDNEY: Bargain hunters pushed selected stocks back up after Monday's freefall. The All Ordinaries index finished 7.4 higher at 1,465.4.

BOMBAY: Profit-taking after Monday's rise knocked 2.34 points off the Bombay Stock Exchange index which closed at 777.96.

FRANKFURT: Shares fell sharply on rumours, then recovered. The Dax index closed at 1,813.26, a gain of 2.08 points.

Move to repay Islamic investors

Court hears offer of \$562m

CAIRO, May 22. (Reuters) An Egyptian court received an anonymous offer of \$562 million today to repay investors who lost savings in a fraudulent Islamic finance company.

The condition — the court would have to drop charges against the company's owner, Ahmed Tawfiq Abdel-Fattah, a convicted swindler.

The offer, 1.5 billion Egyptian pounds, was made in a Cairo criminal court by lawyer Rashad Nabih, who is defending Abdel-Fattah, chairman of the Islamic Rayan Investment Group. He said he was acting for investors who did not wish to be named.

Judge Mohammed Hosni Abdel-Latif said he would think about it. He asked the lawyer to draft a contract for consideration.

Abdel-Fattah, 33, is already serving a prison sentence of 33 years for earlier fraud convictions

related to Rayan — one of more than 100 Islamic financial institutions which flourished in Egypt in the mid-1980s and attracted funds with a mix of piety and profit.

The Islamic banks scorned interest as contrary to Muslim principles but paid returns higher than normal savings banks. The government cracked down on them in 1988 when some were accused of using new deposits to pay dividends to old depositors.

Abdel-Fattah, his father and his brother are on trial on charges of fraud and swindling 187,000 investors out of \$730 million.

Ten others are being tried for breaking banking and foreign exchange regulations by funneling hundreds of millions of dollars out of the country on behalf of Abdel-Fattah.

a warning that lowest-possible tariff treatment for China's exports to the United States could be revoked if the situation there does not improve.

Michel said that he expected Bush to confer with democratic leaders this afternoon, and that a decision would be announced before Congress adjourns Thursday before the Memorial Day holiday.

Senator William Armstrong, Republican of Colorado, said Bush "gave me the impression he would do it, but he didn't say it. I think he'll do it in the next day or two."

Both Michel and Senator Alan Simpson, Republican of Wyoming, indicated that the President's strongest argument to extend the trade designation was on grounds of its impact on American and foreign business interests.

Bush has been under heavy pressure from American and other foreign business interests in Hong Kong, a major exit point for goods leaving China for the United States, to renew the most-favoured nation status. China also threatened to retaliate in kind if the United

States raised tariffs on its products.

Senator John Chafee, Republican from Rhode Island, said the discussion centred on "its future leverage on China. I strongly recommend we grant it to have some leverage on China. He (Bush) indicated it will be provided this week."

While the memory of the Tiananmen Square massacre of student protesters last June remains a strong factor, some of the lawmakers said they believed that US "outrage" has been "properly expressed."

Michel said there was no discussion of a quid pro quo to extract more concessions from China on human rights before granting the extension.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine urged Bush not to renew most favoured nation trade status for China.

In remarks in the Senate, Mitchell said that granting the trade benefit to China would mean agreeing with Chinese leaders that the massacre at Tiananmen Square in Beijing last year was "much ado about nothing."

South Yemen postpones oil exports

NICOSIA, May 22. (UPI) Exports of crude oil from South Yemen's Shabwa oilfields are to be postponed until early 1991 due to delays in the supply of equipment, an oil industry newsletter said today.

The Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said that there had been delays in the supply of the equipment necessary for the completion of a 110-mile (190-km), 20-inch export line linking the oilfields to the Bir Ali export terminal on the Gulf of Aden.

The pipeline is currently under construction by the Soviet firm Tyumen Pipeline Construction Association, but completion — originally scheduled for the end of 1989 or early 1990 — has now been deferred until the third quarter of this year, MEES said.

There were also delays in the field development which the Soviet firm Technoexport was carrying out under a service contract with the South Yemeni Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

On completion, initial production will hover around the 20,000-30,000 barrels a day mark, ultimately rising to 100,000 barrels a day.

The South Yemeni Ministry of Energy and Minerals has received bids from some 15 countries for exploration rights in the Shabwa area.

Due to the forthcoming unity between North and South Yemen, and the consequent merger of the two oil ministries, contracts will not be awarded in the immediate future.

In a statement published in the London-based Lebanese daily Al Hayat on May 16, the South Yemeni Minister of Energy and Minerals, Saleh Abu Bakr Ibn Husainun, disclosed that the South Yemeni authorities had decided to award field exploration permits to foreign firms on the basis of the usual production sharing deals, with the foreign concessionaire putting up all the necessary expenditure on surveys and other exploration work.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices	GE Shpg	43.75	46.75	47
(Rs) May 22, '90	GSFC	188.75	190	187.50
Pr. Cl. Open Close	Guj Alkt	83.50	84	85
ACC 463 458 457	Guj Heavy	16	15.50	16.50
Alum Chem — — —	Hero Honda	22	20.50	21
Alw Nis — — —	Hind Ciba	1370	1350	1390
Ani Fab — — —	Hind Lever	116.50	116	116.50
Ashok Ley — — —	Hind Cocco	160	160	160
Asia Pmt 237.50 240 237.50	Hind Motor	32.50	32.50	32.50
Atlas Corp 37 36 37	Hindals	275	277.50	275
Auto Corp 67.50 65 67.50	Hoechst	2120	2080	2130
Nal Indus 422.93 421.16	Ingersoll	220	215	220
Bajaj Auto 495.50 441.25 437.50	ITC	75	73.50	74.50
Bar Rayer 873.75 873.75 870	Ind Org	60.25	60	60
Blow Plast — — —	Ind Rayon	108	107	107.50
Bom Dyw 212.50 208 213.50	JK Syn	335	332.50	335
BK Bond 117 116.50 117.50	JK Syn	59	58	59
Burr Wei — — —	Shri Fib	52	51	53
Cansabre 3725 3725 3725	Siemens	114	113	115
Cen Enka 3310 3290 3295	SKF	1460	1440	1430
Cen Spg 215 216.25 215	Spic	60.25	60	61
Colgate 1060 1030 1060	St Mills	82	81	80
Cromi Gr 24 24.50 25	Tata Oil	120	119	119
DCM 29.50 29 29.50	Tata Chem	535	535	547.50
Deep Fert 62.50 60 62.50	Tata Pow	142	141	141
Dunlop 58 57 58	Telco	132	131	131
El Hotal 89 88.50 90	Thapp Agro	115	114	114
ESL Index 780.30 777.96	Tisco	138.75	138	138
Eskayef 150 150 151.25	Vam Org	70	74	72
Essar Spg 37 37 36.75	Vareli	18	17.75	18.50
Food Spl 121.25 119 121.25	Wimco	41	40	41
Forbes 49 49.50 48.50	Zuan Agro	63	62	62
Gar Poly 35 35 33.50	Compiled by			
GL India 107 106 106.50	Kawati-India			
GNFC 36.50 36.75 37.50	International			
Grasim 129 129 129	Exchange Co.			

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Istanbul stocks firming up

ISTANBUL, May 22. (Reuters): Istanbul's stock exchange, the world's top performer in 1989, has firmed up a recovery of overseas interest and renewed domestic buying bankers and brokers said.

The market index pierced the psychological 4,000 barrier today to close at 4,021, up 82.1 per cent over end-1989 but still short of its all-time high of 4,195 on February 9.

Peasants, housewives, shopkeepers and even students made fortunes last year in a Turkish stock market boom that sprang largely from legal changes admitting foreign investors.

According to a recent survey by the World Bank-affiliated International Finance Corporation, Turkish stocks posted a gain of 300 per cent in dollar terms in 1989 compared to an overall 47 per cent gain in the 19 developing markets.

The IFC figures showed that US equities rose 27 per cent on average last year, British shares 21 per cent and Japanese 12 per cent.

Istanbul bankers are still winning and dining foreign newcomers to the Turkish equity market and report a considerable rise in interest.

"In 1990, the exchange has proved to be a very stable and reliable market," said Birgul Tekel, deputy general manager at Turk Merchant Bank, which is 60 per cent owned by the US Bankers Trust Company.

The exchange index, based on 100 in January 1986, had hovered in the 3,200-3,900 range from late February.

Trading volume has now recovered from around 20 billion lira a day in April, reaching a daily average of around 50 billion lira, or \$20 million.

Problems like a tiny trading floor and lack of automation still restrict the market.

Investors were banned from the trading floor following a failed bomb attack in January. Trading then spilled onto the streets and a nearby coffeehouse.

"The market is very chaotic and volatile. But still very promising," said a visiting banker from the United States.

Africa's debt unbearable

RABAT, May 22. (Reuters): Africa's foreign debt has become unbearable, ballooning to \$225.6 billion at the end of 1989, the African Development Bank said today.

The bank's annual report, released in Rabat, said the continent's debt service ratio tripled during the 1980s to 31.5 per cent of exports.

The total amount of debt soared 40 per cent in the last five years.

Despite reschedulings and moratoriums "repayments remain high and appear to be unbearable," said the report, to be presented to the ADB's annual general meeting in Ivory Coast on May 29.

"The African debt crisis is so profound it requires urgent and pragmatic solutions," the report said.

At a news conference, ADB economist Daouda Touré said debt servicing staved many African countries of cash needed for investment that would make their economies grow.

Hamdi Marei, ADB's representative for North Africa, said the bank's lending grew 130 per cent in the last four years. It now totalled \$15.6 billion and would probably reach 21 billion by the end of 1991.

The North African region (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia) received the largest share with \$2.74 billion in four years, followed by West Africa (2.45 billion), East Africa (1.78 billion), and Southern Africa (\$850 million).

Marei said North Africa received the most because the region held one third of the bank's capital and represented one third of Africa's area and population.

Touré said other parts of Africa received less also because their economies had a smaller capacity of absorption, partly because of their debt-servicing burden.

Earnings drop

JOHANNESBURG, May 22. (UPI): Barlow Rand, South Africa's biggest industrial concern, reported its first drop in earnings per share in four years Monday due largely to "very difficult conditions" in the world stainless steel market.

For the six-month period ending in March, earnings for the Barlow empire of more than 400 operating companies declined 9.3 per cent to 2.18 rand (83 cents) on shares trading around 38.15 (\$14.50).

Supplies tighten and demand improves

Gold price could pick up in early 1990s

LONDON, May 22. (Reuters): The price of gold, which has failed to move spectacularly since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 10 years ago, could pick up in the early 1990s as supplies tighten and demand improves, a leading survey said today.

"1989 was another record year for the gold market in virtually all respects but price," said the annual survey by Gold Fields Mineral Services, the former research arm of Consolidated Gold Fields which was taken over last

year by London-based Hanson Plc. Although mine production in the West should rise modestly in 1990, the rate of growth will be slower than the seven per cent increase in 1989 to a record 1,653 tonnes.

It will reach a plateau in the early part of the decade, said the survey. At the same time, demand for gold has come back strongly since the price dropped to less than \$400 an ounce, the survey said.

"The gold price averaged \$381 an ounce in 1989, a fall of 13 per cent from the 1988 level."

Gold closed in London on Monday at \$373 an ounce. Its highest close this year was at \$423.25 on Feb 7.

The price rocketed to an all-time high of \$850 an ounce in January 1980 as Soviet tanks rolled into Afghanistan.

Western supplies rose to 2,723 tonnes in 1989, up four per cent in 1988. Apart from Western mine production, other main sources of supplies were sales by central banks and the Soviet Union and from old gold scrap.

Production growth was dominated by the United States, Australia and Canada whose combined output overtook that of South Africa for the first time since 1911.

South African production now represents 37 per cent of the West's supply. Output in 1989 fell two per cent to 808 tonnes, chiefly because of a decline in the quality of grades.

The future availability of gold from the Soviet Union, the world's biggest producer after South Africa, is a big

uncertainty in predicting future trends. While Moscow remains under pressure to sell gold for essential foreign exchange needs, actual output from Soviet mines may well fall in the present economic crisis.

A gold-backed rouble for use in foreign trade and the domestic issue of gold-backed bonds to soak up the enormous rouble overhang have been widely debated, said GFMS.

However, in practice an alternative strategy, in which the Soviet Union

would initially use its gold reserves as a collateral for swaps is considered more likely.

Moscow's net sales reached as estimated 296 tonnes in 1989, against 263 tonnes in 1988. Central Bank selling and lending of gold will be more cautious in the light of the collapse of New York financial house Drexel Burnham Lambert, whose creditors include central banks which had lent gold to the company, the survey said.

East Germany's foreign debt is more than \$16b

Savings vital to cope with budget deficit

WEST BERLIN, May 22. (AP): East Germany's finance minister said today that the country's foreign debt is more than 16 billion dollars and the projected budget deficit is twice that amount.

East Germany's troubled economy worries Bonn officials, who have criticised East Berlin for refusing to open its financial ledgers during the unification process.

The West German mark will become the East German currency on July 2, forcing mammoth shifts in an economy which after 40 years had grown used to centrally planned businesses.

Officials are bracing for a wave of requests to exchange East German marks into West German marks over the six-week period.

Rainer Voigt, the head of the East German Savings and Loan Association, told reporters at an East Berlin news conference that 12 million East Germans are expected to seek the exchange.

The Savings and Loan chief said that 8,000 to 10,000 extra workers will be employed to handle the crush in this nation of 16.6 million people.

Voigt urged East Germans to "smash their piggy banks and shake the money out of old

socks" and put the money into regular bank accounts. He reminded them that only bank accounts, wages and pensions will be exchanged at a one-to-one rate.

Even then, there will be limits on the amount of savings that can be swapped at from East German marks into West German marks at that rate.

Finance Minister Walter Romberg, in a parliamentary debate televised on East German television, painted a bleak picture of the nation's economic health.

Romberg said the foreign debt equals 27.2 billion West German marks, or the equivalent of \$16.3 billion.

He said the national budget will show a deficit of 33 billion marks (\$20 billion) just for the second half of this year, with a budget shortfall of 53 billion marks (\$32.1 billion) projected for next year.

Romberg urged East Germans to show "extreme thriftiness" in their spending in the coming months as the nation simultaneously struggles with a precarious financial situation and move toward unification with the West.

Officials have said they are worried that East Germans could put even further pressure on the economy if they immediately use their newly acquired West German marks to buy consumer products that once were out of reach.

Monday's parliamentary debate considered a treaty signed last Friday between the two German states that bring them well on the way to unification starting in July.

East German shops slashed prices on everything from blue jeans to televisions on Monday in a sale aimed at luring back consumer enamoured with Western goods.

Farmers fighting an influx of Western produce loaded their wagons onto trucks and drove in from the countryside to set up stands on East Berlin's sprawling main square, Alexanderplatz.

Agriculture workers also held similar demonstrations in Leipzig, Dresden, Magdeburg and Karl Marx City.

"We do not accept that the consumer has no choice between imports and East German products," Karl Daemmerich, president of the Farmworkers Union, told farmers in East Berlin.

Protests against Western com-

petition came as parliament debated a treaty to merge East Germany's weak socialist economy with West Germany's powerful free market on July 2.

The merger of the economies and social institutions is the key component of full German unification.

Both German parliaments are expected to vote on the pact next month. The treaty has come under heavy criticism and there have been demands for changes.

Many of East Germany's state-run factories and enterprises are expected to fail when they are exposed to free market competition. Hundreds of thousands of workers are expected to lose their jobs.

In a move to lure back consumers buying the increasingly available Western products, the East German government on Monday cut prices as much as 90 per cent on textiles and appliances.

Lines formed at stores throughout East Berlin.

The East German Commerce and Tourism Ministry said price cuts averaged about 60 per cent on a broad variety of consumer goods, according to the government news agency ADN.

Strikers block Baltic ports

WARSAW, May 22. (Reuters): Striking Polish railway workers stepped up a pay protest by blocking access to the country's main port complex today, ignoring government warnings and a plea by the Solidarity trade union.

A transport ministry spokesman said strikers blocked the railway station at the northwest port of Szczecin which also controls access to the twin port of Swinoujscie on the Baltic.

The Szczecin-Swinoujscie complex is Poland's busiest gateway to the Baltic and the main port for exporting coal, its chief foreign currency earner.

The stoppage is the most damaging outbreak of labour unrest since the government imposed austerity measures on January 1 to curb inflation. The measures have sharply reduced real incomes.

The official news agency PAP said the Solidarity-led government denounced the three-day strike as illegal on Monday and ordered ministers and provincial governors to ensure railway lines were kept free.

There was no sign of official action against the strikers, which PAP said had caused suspension of 14 long-distance trains and 160 local trains.

The national presidium of the Solidarity railway workers union had asked members on Monday not to block lines and to respond to an earlier appeal by the Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to go back to work.

About 2,000 railway workers launched the protest on Sunday, halting traffic in the northwestern region of Pomerania and disrupting it in other areas.



Output to increase

The 3,000,000th model of an East German Trabant car (left) and the first Volkswagen Polo (right) built by Zwickau Motors leave the production line, May 21. The Trabant has been in the production line since 1957, the Polo output will increase from 50 a day to 1,200 a day in 1991. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPD seeks changes

Merger treaty rejected

BONN, West Germany, May 22. (AP): West Germany's main opposition party on Monday rejected the current version of a treaty that would make the two Germanys a single economic entity on July 2, demanding better terms for East Germany.

The decision by the Social Democrats could spell trouble for the merger treaty, which was signed last Friday, since the party now has control of parliament's upper house.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, federal head of the SPD, read a statement saying the party cannot accept the proposed treaty "in the current form that is before us."

Vogel charged that the treaty falls short on helping create "modern and qualified jobs" for East Germans and guarding against the collapse of East German businesses.

The decision was taken at a meeting of SPD party leaders. According to Vogel, the SPD is demanding "changes or amendments either within our outside the treaty text."

That seemed to leave open the possibility the treaty could be approved as is, with additions to be

worked out with the government.

Vogel said a final SPD decision as to its position on the proposed merger treaty will be met "in light of answers to our demands."

The treaty was signed on Friday by the East German and West German governments at Bonn ceremony. However, it must be approved by the two nations' parliaments.

The treaty must also go before the West German parliament's upper house, the Bundesrat, before it becomes law.

The social democrats recently won control of the Bundesrat by defeating Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats in two key state elections.

The Social Democrats' majority in the Bundesrat could slow approval of the merger treaty.

Under the merger treaty, the West German mark will become East Germany's own legal tender as of July 2. East Germany would also start to scrap its centrally planned economy in exchange for one that mirrors West Germany's.

Airlines plan sharing routes, aircraft

MADRID, May 22. (Reuters): Spanish and Italian state airlines Iberia and Alitalia said today they plan to work together to exploit each other's strengths in Latin America and Asia.

Chief executives of both airlines signed a co-operation agreement under which they would use Rome and Madrid as strategic transit hubs through which they can share routes over which they have a competitive edge.

The pact between Iberia and Alitalia is the latest in a series of co-operation arrangements between European carriers aimed at taking best advantage of the creation of a single market within the European Economic Community from 1992.

Under the deal the Spanish and Italian carriers will pool Iberia's routes between Madrid and Mex-

ico City and Alitalia's between Rome and Bangkok, through block seating arrangements in their respective aircraft. They gain a jumping-off point for Iberia routes in Latin America and Alitalia's Asian network.

Officials from both companies said the agreement seeks to exploit a 700,000 passenger market and attract 140,000 new customers to the Rome-Madrid-Mexico route, and 40-50,000 extra on the Madrid-Rome-Bangkok route.

Iberia chairman Narcis Andreu told a news conference the accord does not affect competition and leaves each airline free to negotiate similar agreements elsewhere. There is no exchange of shares involved in the agreement.

Investcorp lifts profits

INVESTCORP, the Bahrain investment bank which controls half of Gucci, the Italian luxury goods house, lifted net profits 12.1 per cent last year to \$51.8 million as it added to its holdings in US and European brand name companies.

On December 29 it completed the \$450 million purchase of Color Tile, a US retailer of floor and wall coverings. The buy-out, from Knoll International, was the largest transaction in Investcorp's seven-year life.

The bank began 1990 with a £22m (\$35.2 million) deal in the UK last week in which it took 30 per cent of Computacore, a systems integrator which supplies microcomputer hardware, software and support services to government and large corporate clients.

According to Michael Merritt, an Investcorp director, it is working on several other acquisitions in Europe, where last year the bank released \$135 million through private placements of debt and equity in Gucci as well as in Chaumet, the French jeweller which it rescued from bankruptcy in 1987, and Breguet, its watch-making subsidiary.

Some 28 per cent of Gucci was placed with Gulf clients in this way, but Investcorp has retained voting power over the shares.

Investcorp's own shares are quoted on the new Bahrain stock exchange. Its 11,000 shareholders will receive a maintained 15 per cent annual dividend for a total pay-out of \$15 million. Most of the stock is held by some 800 founder shareholders. Trading is thin, but no foreign listing are planned.

Jets order cancelled

LONDON, May 22. (UPI): The Malaysian government has cancelled a \$400 million (\$676 million) order for up to 12 Tornados, apparently because the fighters-bombers are too sophisticated and costly, the Financial Times reported today.

The newspaper said the Tornados were regarded as the backbone of a £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) arms deal signed in 1988 by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with Kuala Lumpur.

It said the decision by the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, who was in London on May 11, will be revealed in a report of the authoritative Flight International magazine Wednesday.

Soviet Union plans to double food prices in shift to market

MOSCOW, May 22. (AP): The Kremlin plans to double most food prices as part of desperately needed economic reforms that will begin next year but are not expected to bring a turnaround until 1995, according to a document obtained today.

A preliminary draft of the government's economic programme, released to Supreme Soviet deputies and obtained by the Associated Press, caps weeks of vacillation over whether to treat the ailing economy with an immediate plunge into the free market or make a more gradual transition.

Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov's report to the Supreme Soviet legislature says the government chose five difficult years of transition over two excruciating years of shock measures.

Along with price hikes, the reforms include a new taxation system, rules on private property, anti-trust laws,

higher interest rates and a more developed financial system, including commercial banks independent of the government.

The plan came under immediate fire from a parliamentary opposition group, which said it would present an alternative proposal for faster and deeper change.

"This is just another ploy by the government to intimidate the people with the idea of a free market and consolidate its own positions," said Siberian economist Gennady Filshin of the opposition inter-regional group. He was interviewed by Post-Factum, an independent news service in Moscow.

The Soviet economy is widely acknowledged to be in a shambles, and President Mikhail Gorbachev's popularity has steadily declined as his economic reforms have failed to

improve people's daily lives.

The report, which Gorbachev's advisory council is scheduled to discuss today, emphasises the need to control inflation, unemployment and other social ills, but also outlines major price increases and other reforms beginning in 1991.

"The retail prices on food should, on the average, double, increasing by 112 billion roubles (\$180 billion)," says the report, which is to be presented to lawmakers Thursday.

However, the prices of basic foodstuffs - including bread, meat and oil - will remain under government regulation and not be allowed to spiral out of control, the plan says.

It also provides for a complex system of compensation and wage-indexing to make sure the country's poor will survive.

The 70-page plan, although falling

far short of the market-freeing measures taken in Poland, is far more radical than the government programme presented in December to the Congress of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet's parent parliament. That programme essentially proposed three more years of a centrally planned economy.

Frightening figures on current economic performance may underlie the government's new readiness to take far-reaching measures.

In the first quarter of this year, cash incomes swelled by 13.4 per cent while the gross national product actually declined, the report says. From January to April, political strikes and ethnic conflicts caused factories and other enterprises to lose 9.5 million man-hours of labour, compared to 7 million man-hours lost during all of last year.

In addition, Soviets have an excep-

tionally high rate of savings, raising fears that money chasing goods would bring runaway inflation when a free market is established.

"The negative effects of political instability, strikes and inter-ethnic conflicts is growing ever stronger," Ryzhkov's report says, singling out violent unrest in the caucuses as the most harmful to production.

Ryzhkov proposes an appeal to all the country's workers not to strike.

His report also says Gorbachev may need to issue frequent presidential decrees to push through urgent reforms that would otherwise bog down in the legislative process. Gorbachev issued such a decree Saturday night, calling for the legalisation of private ownership of residential land.

The government plan foresees passage of all the laws needed for the transition to a market economy by the end

of this fall. It says "predictions show that in 1995 the country will be in a position to accumulate the real financial means and resources" to let the economy leap ahead.

Ryzhkov, Gorbachev and other leaders have repeatedly promised that there will be no price rises until after the nation has a chance to discuss the hikes and agree to them.

But according to a government proposal that is also to be addressed at today's presidential council meeting, meat in 1991 will cost 2.1 times as much as it does now; bread will triple in price and milk will double, the Interfax news agency reported Monday.

Current prices in state stores for many basic foods are extremely low, with potatoes costing as little as 10 kopecks a kilogramme (about 7 cents a pound) and beef 2 roubles a kilogramme (\$1.8 a pound).

Indian Video Roundup

Amir Khan dances to Dev's tune in *Awal Number*. Above: dancing at a star night

Dev scores a point in entertainment

Some lose to gimmicks

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff
THE deserving must get a chance to field their talent. Words of wisdom spoken by president of the cricket selection team in Dev Anand's *Awal Number* (No. 1) ring true, at least, on film. Someone gets a chance, someone loses it. And that is the name of the game in *Awal Number*.

The movie written and directed by that evergreen hero of the silver screen clean bowls us with fluffy entertainment. Although Dev indulges in didactic statements like removing manipulators from the sports scene and terrorists from politics, *Awal Number* manages to sustain interest.

It's the story of a young, inexperienced "cricketer" Sunny (Amir Khan) and his desire to become somebody in cricket. His idol is Ronnie - Ranvir (Aditya Pancholi), an egocentric person who believes no one can be a better player. And when Sunny proves his mettle, Ronnie plots revenge... with some help from a group of terrorists, led by svelte dancer Maria (Neeta Puri).

The rise of one and the fall of another star puts you in the right mood for a game of cricket, played out in the backdrop of a terrorist gang plotting to blow up the stadium. This generates sufficient tension in keep you guessing.

Apart from didacticism, the only other folly is the new find

Ektas who finds it rather difficult to emotie. Thankfully, she has a limited role.
Newest heartthrob Amir Khan fits the bill and Aditya Pancholi as Ronnie does justice to his character. Dev Anand curves a role for himself as the honest-to-God police officer who has been recalled to tackle terrorists.

Swarg
As the title *Swarg* suggests, this is meant to be heavenly entertainment. That it falls prey to devilish gimmicks is undoubtedly the contrivance of scriptwriter Anand Bhanu.

If you call a rose by any other name it won't cease to be a rose. And if you call a family drama *Swarg*, it can't live up to angelic promises. The trouble with director David Dhawan's movie is its contents.

Swarg is the palatial home of industrialist Kumar (Rajesh Khanna). Its residents are two blue-eyed brothers, a charming sister, a typical wife (Madhavi) and an orphan Krishna (Govinda). It's the perfect family atmosphere. The family won't eat if brother Kumar is delayed at work; the brother's touch his feet each time he winks. Stereotypes.

The rest is film history. As moss builds up, the characters decay. And *Swarg* becomes 'narak' (hell) as you watch the sentimental drama unfold. Only Krishna holds your attention, first as the insufferable servant and then as the newest star in

Govinda plays Krishna in *Swarg*.

Bombay. In some ways, Krishna's role may have been based on Govinda's own entry, and rise to stardom, in films.

Despite Govinda's euphoric performance, *Swarg* remains a stagnant cesspool of oft-

repeated gimmicks. Rajesh Khanna, who re-appears after hibernation, seems to have held on to his irksome romantic superstar mannerisms.

Indian TV dramas
Gaurav, based on a story by

Samareesh Mazumdar, is a rather interesting serial. Two parts are presently available, which tell the story of Gaurav, a doctor who returns from the US to find his family in disarray and how he copes with the changed social scene. Stories on dowry, drug addicts and social stigma and diseases like leprosy are interwoven in the saga. Performers include Sahyashi Chakraborty, Ashok Singh, Sonali Nanavati and Chandra Dastidar.

Wagle's World takes a light-hearted look at middle-class life in India. It revolves around the little things in life that make or break a moment in the life of an ordinary human being. Wagle, a self-employed businessman, and his family - like most families do - sometimes sail or sink, depending on the situation.

Yeh Gulistan Hamara: this serial is an unpretentious call for unity in India. Through a series of stories about the relationship between different communities, it details with no holds barred - the hiccups of a multi-racial society. Most tales rely on melodrama to put across the point. Sunil Dutt and Hema Malini present the serial. The cast includes Parikshit Sahni, Sangeeta Naik and others.

The feature films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St, Farwaniya; and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Sharq, Indian TV serials, courtesy Al Bahar Video, Salmiya.

Sheikh Nasser inaugurates handicrafts exhibition

KUWAIT'S Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad recently opened a handicrafts exhibition at the Islamic Welfare Society in Adeliya. The exhibition displayed the works of Noura Al Nashmi. She exhibited handcrafted products ranging from hand-woven baskets and paintings to embroidered fabrics and dolls.



Sheikh Nasser with Noura Al Nashmi at the exhibition.



Above and right: some of the products on show.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.45 Kaola: cartoons
10.15 Magazine d'Actualite (repeat)
10.30 Zamaan Qaloo Ala Rai Al Muhl: Arabic serial. Episode 21.
11.30 Suvenaan: bedouin serial; part 4. Starring: Adel Afana, Wafa Mossili, Abdul Rahman Al Rashi.
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

Evening

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: Cartoons
5.00 The Circus Clowns: cartoon serial
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial; ep. 8; featuring Osama Al Mashini, Mohammad Al Ihadi, Abecr Isa, Rab'ee Shihab.
7.00 Variety
7.15 Folklore: prepared and presented by Hmoud Al Baghli
7.50 Islamic Arts in the Yemens
8.30 Good Evening: high-lights local events
9.00 News in Arabic
10.45 Ibn Hamedo: Arabic feature film. Starring: Ismael Yas, Hindi Rustom, Zeenat Alwi.
12.00 News Summary
12.25 World News via

Satellite
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey and Donald: cartoons
6.30 Hotshot: the search for a missing professor continues while her kidnappers force her to produce counterfeit currency.
7.00 Beyond 2000: focus on plastic batteries; new soft drink plant volcanoes and a new transistor radio.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Science Edition: this weekly programme examines computer applications that can control fires.
9.00 Booker: "Deals and Wheels". Booker finds evidence of a man's criminal activities.
10.00 Cine Club: "Oliver". Starring: Ron Moody, Oliver Reed, Shani Wallis. Musical version of Oliver Twist.
12.00 News in Brief/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Sports Channel 6 and 45

6.55 Football: Kazma vs Qadsia; Amiri Cup Competition: live broadcast.



Richard Grieco plays Booker, tonight at 9 pm on KTV 2.

9.10 European Champions Cup soccer: AC Milan vs Benfica: live telecast.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.20 am
Zuhr 11.45
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.38
Isha 8.20

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery

A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg, Salem Al Muharar St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashid Diyah, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jama'ci are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest

MAY 23: Funkar Arts presents Hindi play *Ek Musafir Khoya Hua*: Telugu Kala Samir presents *Kala* (Eyes).

MAY 24: Samarpan Teen Bandar, Gujarat; Bhatia Mitral Mandal present *Kissa Babul Ke Aangan Ka*, Hindi. Kuwait Dramatic Society presents Malayalam play *Akkatham*.

MAY 30: Madhu and Friends present *Kritiwa Nanni*, Malayalam; Stage Index perform *Shanti Parvam*, Malayalam.

MAY 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Maurich Songbad*; Bengali IAC badminton team perform *Chanteeran and His Clan*; Malayalam. Nathy Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud), Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC, Funaites, 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Polish Charity Concert
MAY 24: 8 pm. Mousetrapp Theatre. The Polish Charity Concert takes place. Polish and Yugoslavian musicians will perform a rich selection of classical music, including Chopin, Schubert, Brahms etc. In addition to a light-and-sound show - *Face of the Desert* - with electronic music composed by Mark Bilinsky and Video-Rama by Jacek Wozniak. Tickets - KD5, Mousetrapp Box Office open from 4-6 pm in the evenings. For telephone bookings call 2667624, 4747879.

Tamil Drama
MAY 25: IAC presents a full-length comedy drama, produced by The Enthusiasts, entitled *Unmaiye Un Vilai Enna* (Crazy Thieves), 7 pm; directed by C.V.K. Raman. IAC Box Office open on May 23-24, 6 to 8.30 pm. For entry passes call 3904817, 5616930, 4889874, 3903879.

Kuwait Players
KUWAIT Players present *A Room Full of Foreigners*, a comedy, nightly at 8 pm from May 28 to 31, both days inclusive, at UAS, Salwa. For reservations call 5321294, 5615357.

Kuwait Players AGM
JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting, 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel.

Windsurfing
MAY 25: Messilah Beach Hotel's Windsurfing event. All welcome. Entry fee: KD3. Maximum sail size: 7.5 sq.m. For details call 5624111 ext. 739.

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Build-

ing a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

Summer Affair '90
MAY 24: Summer Affair '90 at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of 1990 Summer Queen and Ms Kodak. For reservations contact Julio, 4315425; Hilary, 5741380; Merces, 4890566.

NRI update
MAY 25: NRI Investors Forum meeting, 11 am; Indian Embassy Hall; update on Third NRI Gulf Conference in New Delhi; followed by lunch. All Indians welcome.

Islamic seminar
MAY 23: Ladies-only seminar on Islam; 5 pm; conducted by the Islamic Welfare Society; English-language. For venue call 2518600.

Kuwait Welsh Society
MAY 23: Annual general meeting-cum-social, 8 pm. For details of venue call 2912384, 3713467, 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

LIL
May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon: Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting: coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann - 531-6905.

June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme; Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm, close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets - Continental and Oriental cuisine.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Sheraton
Riccardo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At the Plaza
Al Dallah Collee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

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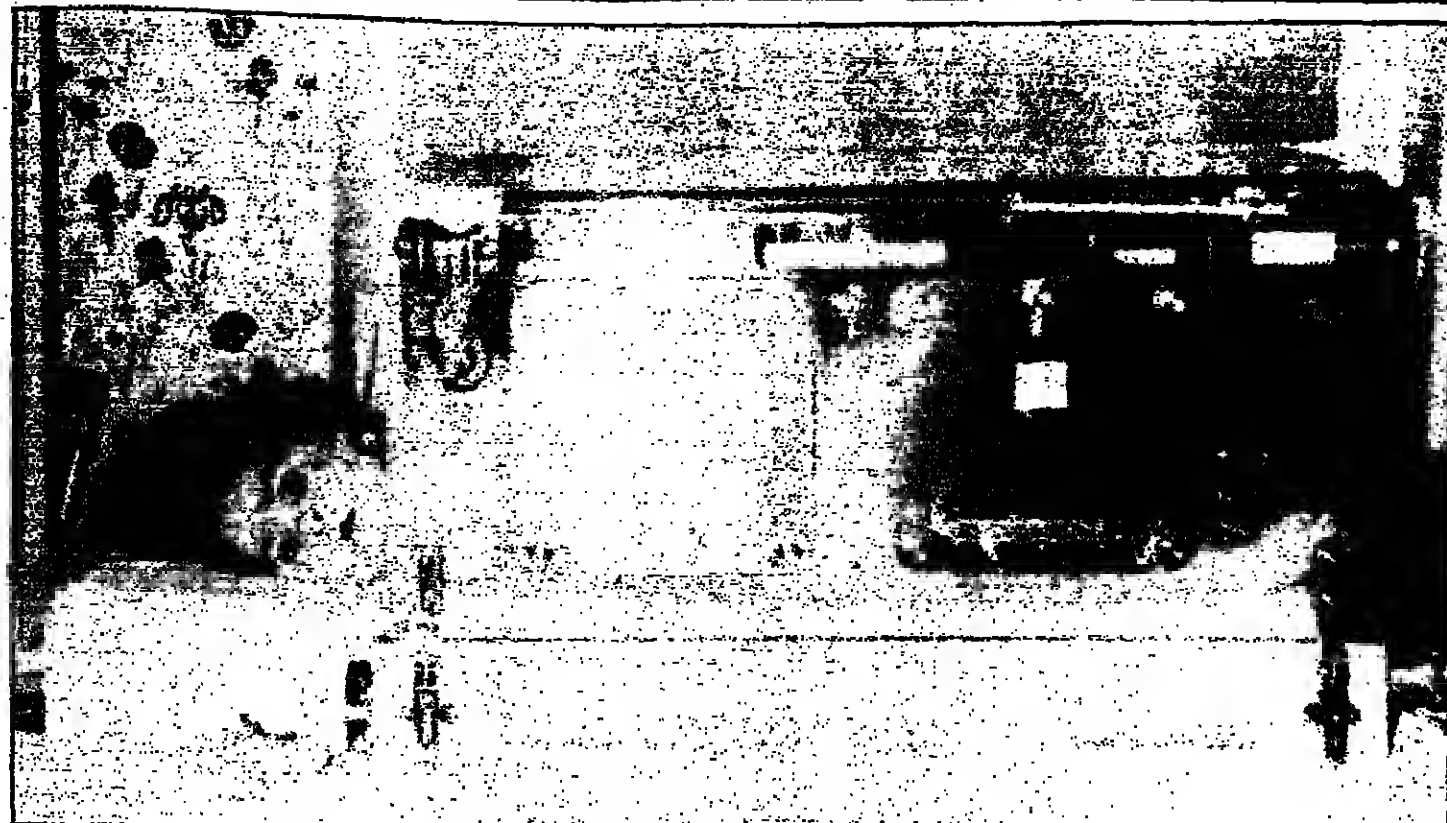
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Naomi in Thomas the Tank.



"The nurses adore Naomi" says Elaine (left).

How brave little Naomi made friends with Thomas the Tank

By Faith Mall

A CHILD'S room decorated with brightly coloured wallpaper and Mickey Mouse posters is a symbol of hope for Ian and Elaine Roland.

The cuddly toys and games so lovingly arranged have never been played with but the couple hope daughter Naomi will return home soon to do just that.

The two-year-old has spent the past year in a metal chamber in St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth, UK.

When she is too ill to be moved, Naomi sits, sleeps and plays in her tank. Only her little head, arms and legs are visible. They poke out from the top and sides of the box, enabling her to wave to other patients.

On better days, she sits up and is taken around the hospital in a special wheelchair by the nurses who admire the little girl's brave fight against congenital myopathy, a rare lung disease.

Life inside the box is not easy but Naomi never complains, says mother Elaine. She told me: "She's a happy little soul and always has a smile on her face during the treatment."

Ian and Elaine, from Crook Horn, Portsmouth, are both disabled with

muscular dystrophy, a disease which weakens the muscles. Ian told me: "We are so proud of Naomi because of her courage. When she is put into the negative pressure chamber, she never complains although the treatment is sometimes painful."

"She is so tough and I know that if I was in her position, I wouldn't be so brave. She is sometimes in the tank all day and can't do anything but lie there. My heart goes out to her but she doesn't seem to mind and still manages to smile."

In fact, Naomi even has a nickname for her magic box — Thomas the Tank — after her favourite children's book character Thomas the Tank Engine.

Elaine told me: "When she has to go into the chamber, she says I'm going to see Thomas the tank. Ian and I have covered it with stickers and she gets very excited when she has her treatment. She loves it."

When she is ill, Naomi is in the tank for 24 hours. On days when she is well, she is in it for 10 hours. Elaine explained: "Myopathy weakens the lung muscles and sometimes Naomi can't breathe. She also can't cough so mucus collects in her lungs. The mucus is drained by a suction tube and then she is put into the chamber."

A rare lung disease means the two-year-old spends most of her time in a metal chamber but she treats it as a game and has even given her box a nickname. One day, her parents hope, she can leave it and live a normal life.

"Before going in, she has to wear a tight-fitting latex vest. This is the most painful part of the procedure because the vest only has a tiny hole at the top and it is often difficult squeezing Naomi's tiny body into it. She hates it but knows it is necessary as it protects her body."

"The tank is then charged up so that the negative pressure chamber creates a vacuum to expand her chest, drawing oxygen into her lungs. The longer she is in the tank, the better for her. If she didn't have the tank, I don't think she would be here today. Her health has improved so much over the past year thanks to the box."

The Rolands' terraced home is littered with photographs of the pretty dark-haired youngster. In the past year Naomi has been home for a total of 10 days. "We miss her so much although we see her every day at the hospital," said Elaine. "We can't wait for her to come home again."

Ian feels the same. He told me: "Her toys are waiting for her. Every day we hope today is the day she will be allowed home but it never is. She's been in and out of hospital since the day that she was born and doesn't really think of this as her home."

They are a loving couple who never for one moment regret having Naomi despite being warned during Elaine's pregnancy, that there was a possibility their child would be born with a disability.

"Because both Ian and I have muscular dystrophy, doctors warned me there was a chance my baby might not be normal. But we didn't care and wanted to have the child. It was all we needed to make our happiness complete."

Ian and Elaine were childhood sweethearts. "They met at a school for the disabled and, with the support of their families, married at 19. Determined to lead normal lives, they

moved into a council house and were delighted when Elaine became pregnant."

Naomi was born on May 24, 1988. She weighed a healthy 7lbs. 6oz but Elaine soon realised something was wrong. "I went to hold her and her legs were all floppy and she didn't seem to move her head. She was like a rag doll."

The baby was taken into the special-care ward and monitored day and night. Ian and Elaine were told the child had talipes, (better known as twisted feet) and a heart murmur.

She was allowed home, but when she was six months old, she became ill with bronchiolitis and was diagnosed as suffering from myopathy. Elaine told me: "We were flabbergasted when we found out she had the lung disease. It was a double blow because Naomi was due to have an operation to correct her feet, but she was too ill to be operated on."

"The operation was postponed and we eventually decided we didn't want to go ahead with the surgery because she had suffered enough already. Maybe when she's older we'll consider it."

Because of her feet, Naomi is unable to walk. She can't sit up unaided and has a special jacket for the purpose.

During the first year of her life, Naomi developed a chest infection every month. Doctors recommended that the Rolands see a specialist at the Brompton Hospital in London. He told them about the hi-tech tank and soon Naomi was using it.

But initially Ian and Elaine were appalled by the idea of their daughter living in a chamber. Elaine told me: "We were both horrified and didn't want our daughter spending her life in some machine. However, as we got to know more about the machine, we realised it would help her to get better."

There are only 25 of the pressure chambers in Britain and each one costs £8,000 and is paid for by the hospital, so we know how lucky Naomi is to have one."

The chamber, which has been moved to their local St Mary's Hospital, has gradually helped Naomi to get better. "Doctors have told us that she

will never get worse, only better," Ian told me.

"When she is well, she is lively and bubbly just like any other two-year-old. She is a smashing kid and it's not just us who think so but the nurses and other patients too. In fact, she's so popular that she's never alone. There are always people visiting her."

"Sometimes when we walk into her hospital room, she is surrounded by people. The children especially love her and bring her gifts. They even take her into the hospital school room with them where she sits and draws, and joins in the games."

In recent months Naomi has got a lot better and should be allowed home soon. Her room is ready for her, with a portable pressure chamber for the nights. "We know how to operate the tank, so there shouldn't be too many problems," said Ian.

They are also trying to raise money for a special turbo chair and van so they can take Naomi out during the day. But most of all they are looking forward to having her home.

"I miss her so much although I see her every day in the hospital," said Elaine. "It will be great having her home again so we can start being a family again."

Eureka — best invention since Braille

Turnaround for learning; jobs

By David Clark Scott

MELBOURNE, (CSM): Gary Farmer has a job. It's not a "blind person's job" but a real job.

After 300 job applications and 18 months of rejections, he has been hired by the Australian Defence Department to make sure contractors deliver Army orders on time, on budget.

He credits the Eureka A4 — an innocuous black computer no bigger than a thick pad of notebook paper.

"It's not a magic wand," Farmer says. "It doesn't eliminate blindness. But without it, I would be unemployable in this type of job. Without it, I'd be answering phones or weaving baskets. And that's just not my cup of tea."

The personal-computer revolution has largely bypassed the blind. High-tech communication channels — computer screen, standard keyboard, printouts — are highly visual. A few adapted or dedicated computers have been available. But most of them are expensive and cumbersome.

The Eureka is different. It's the world's first talking lap-top computer designed specifically for the visually impaired. Weighing in at only 1.6 kilograms (3.5 pounds), it packs a powerful punch by any computing standard.

The system has a built-in word processor, calculators, telephone directory, database communications software, four-voice music composer (nine-voice optional), calendar, alarm clock, and voltmeter. Extra software includes games, talking spreadsheets, banking programmes, and a phone-answering machine programme.

It's similar to a standard computer with

eight function keys, four cursor control keys, and shift key, but it's operated by using a seven-key Braille keyboard that repeats out loud (there's an earphone for "silent" operation) each character, word, or sentence. The robotic voice does a bit of getting used to — like someone speaking with an accent.) Built-in batteries provide eight hours of continuous use between overnight charging.

And, the price is comparable to mass-produced computers: A\$3,000 (about model) — or less than half that of the nearest competitor.

David Blyth, director of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, calls Eureka, which has been on the market for several years, the "best thing since Braille was invented (in 1824)."

Blind singer and composer Stevie Wonder was so impressed when he used the Eureka on a recent Australia tour that he bought six and gave one to singer Ray Charles.

"Whether it is used by famous or ordinary 'blokes' like Gary Farmer, this electronic companion not only simplifies life, but offers blind people greater independence, confidence, and the opportunity to lead more productive and satisfying lives."

For example, Melbourne grade-school student Brett Scary was struggling with school work. His papers weren't being handed in on time. His parents were advised to "just get him through to 10th grade and get him a basic factory job." Since he latched on to the Eureka last year, there's been a turnaround. Brett uses it to take notes in class and printout assignments. Now his parents and teachers are talking about his tertiary (college) education.

And Melbourne lawyer Frank Nowlan's secretary complains that the Eureka is pitting

her out of work. Nowlan used to rely on her to access legal databases and read the information to him. Now the Eureka, complete with internal communications modem, does it.

"In terms of getting a bang for the buck, it's unbelievable the range of things it can do," Nowlan says. "It really opens up the information windows for me in regard to everything going on in the office."

Remarkable for its size, power and price, the Eureka's origins are also somewhat unusual. It's not made by IBM, Apple, or Hewlett-Packard. Eureka comes from Robotron, a shoestring startup operation founded by Czech immigrant Milan Hudcock.

An electrical engineer with entrepreneurial aspirations, Hudcock left his homeland in 1981 frustrated by the lack of business opportunities. Looking for an application for a homemade speech synthesizer led him to the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (now a distributor) and ultimately, with a A\$130,000 (US \$100,000) federal grant, to develop the Eureka.

More than 1,000 units have been sold in two years. Seventy per cent of the sales are to 17 overseas countries. English, Japanese, and Swedish models are now available. Spanish, French, German, and Arabic are planned.

In 1989, Robotron won Australia's "New Exporter of the Year" award given by the nation's leading industrial trade organisation. Sales this year are expected to double.

"We found a niche ignored by the computer companies. Roughly one per cent of the population of every country is visually impaired," explains Hudcock.

But technology is no replacement for the traditional Braille methods, warns Gashel. At a recent NFB convention, he was asked to take notes that could be read immediately. He reached for his Braille 'n Speak and started typing, only to realize that without his embossing printer, he couldn't reproduce them for others. "I'm now technology-handicapped!" laments Gashel.

Fortunately someone in the room had the traditional slate and stylus used to punch each Braille character by hand. The meeting was called back to order.



Gary Farmer of Melbourne, Australia, with his Eureka computer Braille keyboard.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Some cases of cirrhosis develop into liver cancer

QUESTION: I know we are only getting half the information we need from our daughter-in-law and fear that her description of my son's condition is wrong. She keeps telling us about cirrhosis, but we are afraid that she means it's cancer. Are they the same thing?

ANSWER: I'm sure many individuals have considered the same question, and the answer is no. Cirrhosis is a condition of the liver that follows a wide variety of chronic and progressive liver diseases. The result of these diseases is to scar the liver so the normal architecture, that is the pattern of cells within the liver, is disrupted, and although the liver tries to heal itself by growing new tissue, this tissue, too, is of an abnormal pattern.

In the United States, it's alcohol that is the most common cause of cirrhosis, while chronic hepatitis is the most important cause of cirrhosis in other countries. In cirrhosis, the liver is large, but as the disease progresses, the liver may shrink and become smaller than usual. A cirrhotic liver does not function well and patients experience symptoms of fatigue, malaise, and loss of vigour, although these findings can sometimes be associated with other disease.

As for cancer of the liver, the pattern and form of the cells themselves change and take on specific appearances that can be diagnosed using microscopic techniques. Primary liver cell cancer develops in 5 per cent to 20 per cent of patients with cirrhosis, although it also can occur to people who have never had an underlying liver problem. To look at it another way, cirrhosis is present in 40 per cent to 80 per cent of all patients who have primary liver cell cancer, but the two diseases, although occurring in the same individual, are different. I'm sure your daughter-in-law is telling the truth, but in a manner she hopes will not cause you any extra worry.

I thought you would like to know: Unproven remedies, from copper bracelets and uranium mines to snake venom and megavitamins, are being tried at least once by each of the 37 million Americans with arthritis, according to the Arthritis Foundation (AF). In addition, one study shows that one in 10 people with arthritis who try an unproven remedy report harmful side effects.

"During May, which is National Arthritis Month, the Arthritis Foundation is trying to help people with this disease, their families and friends, to make informed choices about arthritis remedies they may hear about," declares Dr. Arthur Grayzel, the Arthritis Foundation's senior vice president for medical affairs.

To help you understand the problem and provide you with information that can aid in making wise decisions, the AF has prepared a most interesting booklet, "Unproven Remedies," which is yours for the asking. Sending your request, along with a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 19000, Atlanta, Ga. 30326. You will find the answers to questions like, "What are unproven remedies?" "How can unproven remedies harm your health?" and "How can you spot an unproven remedy?"

This 17-page booklet comes with a chart showing the comparative safety (or lack thereof) of some common unproven remedies for arthritis, so important checklist that will help you spot the phonies, and those important addresses you may need for additional help. If you have arthritis or know someone who does, this is an important booklet for you to get.

Technology handicapped

By Elizabeth A. Brown

BEWARE of computer myths, warns Kenneth Jernigan, executive director of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), based in Baltimore.

"The computer field has done more good and spawned more myths than perhaps anything else in the world. Someone always comes out and says, 'This is going to revolutionize life for blind people.' But that's just not true."

What is true is that computer aids make some tasks easier for the blind, he says. For example:

- Desktop computers and hand-held translators that speak previously recorded words and numbers.
- "Embossing" machines that print in Braille.
- "Refreshable Braille" screens that have a strip where Braille characters can be read with fingers.
- A talking calculator with algebraic and geometric functions (soon to be distributed).

In the United States, the most popular of these is Braille 'n Speak, a hand-held computer that can take notes in Braille and speak them back, and print them in ink or emboss

them in Braille. The device fits in a pocket, weighs less than a pound, and does everything the larger Australian Eureka A4 does for less than half the price at \$1,000, according to Dean Blazie, one of its inventors. And the Braille 'n Speak is easier to understand, says co-inventor Tim Crammer of Frankfort, Ky., who is head of research and development at the NFB. "The Eureka speaks with a terrible Australian accent."

More than 2,000 Braille 'n Speak computers have been sold since Oct 1987 when they were introduced, says Mr Blazie. "That's a large number for this market." Both Braille 'n Speak and Eureka A4 are IBM compatible. Another portable device for the blind is the Braille Blazer, which prints Braille and orally explains mechanical information such as margin widths and skipped lines. This is also the invention of Blazie and Mr Crammer. The Blazer weighs only 12 pounds — one-third that of most Braille printers, and costs one-tenth less, at \$1,700.

For scientists, a talking calculator will be introduced this July at the NFB's 50th anniversary celebration in Dallas. This pocket-calculator compute sine, cosine, and algebraic functions.

These products are helpful, but there are

obstacles to more widespread use, says James Gashel, director of governmental affairs at the NFB. The problem: One must use Braille with these machines. Only 10 per cent of the blind in the US use Braille.

Betsy Zaborowski, a clinical psychologist and faculty member at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, had partial vision as a child and wasn't taught Braille in school. She needs it now, and says learning is greatly helped by the Braille 'n Speak.

"It's the best tool I've found so far for learning Braille and using Braille," says Dr Zaborowski. "The Braille 'n Speak gives you immediate feedback if you're right or not when you type in a letter."

But technology is no replacement for the traditional Braille methods, warns Gashel. At a recent NFB convention, he was asked to take notes that could be read immediately. He reached for his Braille 'n Speak and started typing, only to realize that without his embossing printer, he couldn't reproduce them for others. "I'm now technology-handicapped!" laments Gashel.

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Three men and a big legacy

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): If insiders are to be believed *Three Men and a Little Lady* will be funnier and better than its parent, *Three Men and a Cradle*.

English actor Christopher Cazenove — who joins Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg and Ted Danson in the story that takes place five years after the original — says it will live up to its legacy.

That legacy is the \$167,780,960 domestic box-office and \$75 million foreign gross achieved by the original, the top financial movie success story of 1987-88.

Cazenove said he would not be surprised to see the sequel surpass that financial landmark when it is released this December in time for the holidays.

Cazenove enters the picture as a handsome interloper who threatens to break up the status quo of the happy trio of papas — Selleck, Guttenberg and Danson — the little girl and her Mama Sylvia, played by Nancy Travis.

He portrays a theatrical director who lures Sylvia and her daughter to his London home. Our three heroes, of course, go crackers. They want their little girl back.

"My character is not the villain," said Cazenove, an Englishman with classical theatre background. He is most familiar to American audiences for his role of Ben Carrington in the defunct *Dynasty* series. "But I do play the fly in the ointment, the romantic rival."

Selleck's character is jealous because my character, Edward, is having an affair with Sylvia, the baby's mother.

"This sequel gives audiences an entirely new perspective. The story has the three men travel to England to try to get Sylvia and her daughter back into their lives."

"My character is a very nice guy. I don't think audiences will dislike him. In fact, I hope they like him a lot. He's very smooth, sophisticated and romantic. He's an eminent, respected director."

"While he loves the mother, he is not all that crazy about having to live with her 5-year-old daughter. That's where the problem arises. Relating to children is not Edward's best area."

Cazenove — who did not see *Three Men and a Baby* until he was cast for the sequel — laughingly agreed that worse things can happen to an actor than to work in the follow-up

to an overwhelming box-office success with a popular cast.

"I've never done a sequel before," he said. "It's absolutely wonderful to be in a movie you know is going to be seen, even though it may not do as well as the first one. But that's unlikely because it's a very good script."

"The advantage to a sequel is that audiences know what is going on and who the characters are. It doesn't need explaining. Tom and Steve and Ted made me feel welcome, which helped a great deal."

"I think this film is much funnier than the first. To be brutally honest, I don't find three guys trying to change diapers very amusing. This time there is a proper story line about human relationships."

"The plot is enriched by the fact that all three dads find themselves in England for the first time. There is comedy in their reactions and confrontations with the English and our customs. They're kind of out of place."

"Also, the child playing the little girl — Robin Weisman — is a marvellous little actress and a great little kid. She will be a sensation on the screen."

"Fortunately the three guys have more scenes with her than I do."

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W.Indies cricket board warns Richards

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 22. (Reuters). West Indian captain Viv Richards has been warned by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) of the consequences of future misconduct on his part.

A board statement yesterday condemned the behaviour of Richards, who was involved in a heated row in the press box in Antigua that made him late taking the field during the final Test against England last

month.

The WICBC warning followed their annual meeting in St Lucia at the weekend when they discussed the incident involving Richards and English journalist James Lawton on the second day of the fifth Test.

The statement said "The board is of the opinion that despite provocation, there could be no mitigating circumstances to justify the unprecedented step taken by the captain of the West Indies cricket team

who, instead of leading his team on to the field on the second morning, was engaged in confrontation with a member of the English press.

"Mr Richards has been made aware of the board's great displeasure at his action and of the certain consequences of any future misconduct on his part."

The board also warned West Indies cricketers of increasing misconduct among them and said any slip-ups would

result in firm disciplinary action.

"The board expresses its concern at the general deterioration of the conduct of some West Indies players and wishes to remind all players that strong disciplinary action will be taken against anyone found guilty of misconduct," their statement said.

Former Test batsman Clyde Walcott was returned as WICBC president for another two-year term.

Worcester on brink of defeat

LONDON, May 22, (Reuters). English county cricket champions Worcestershire were teetering on the brink of defeat yesterday after the second day of their three-day match against Essex.

At the close Worcestershire were 165 for eight in their second innings, still needing nine to make Essex bat again.

Seventeen wickets tumbled during day after Worcestershire had resumed their first innings at 26 for one.

The home side, who were without the injured Graeme Hick, folded for 273 in their first innings with eighth wicketman Richard Illingworth top scoring with 89.

Crashed

Ian Botham, returning after a knee operation, hit 53 while seamer Don Topley took four for 67.

After following on for the first time in six years, Worcestershire then crashed to 82 for eight against the pace bowling of Neil Foster and Derek Pringle before Phil Newport (71 out) and Graham Dilley (18 out) restored some respectability to the score.

Newport, though, was fortunate to be the beneficiary of two dropped slip chances out of six spilled altogether in the second innings.

Elsewhere batsmen were mostly to the fore with Lancashire openers Graeme Fowler and Gehao Mendis plundering a century each against an injury-weakened Leicestershire attack at Old Trafford.

Fowler hit an unbeaten 115 while Mendis contributed 113 to an opening partnership of 231.

Close

Lancashire declared their first innings closed at 250 for one, 86 behind, and at the close Leicestershire were 66 for one in their second innings.

At the Oval there were runs for the Smith brothers as Hampshire raced to 250 for four declared in reply to Surrey's 374 for five declared.

England batsman Robin hit an unbeaten 114 while his elder brother Chris compiled 71.

Kiwis hold Middlesex

Haynes hits second ton of match



Desmond Haynes

LONDON, May 22, (Reuters). New Zealand risked defeat against Middlesex yesterday in an attempt to keep alive their hopes of a £50,000 (\$84,500) bonus for a clean sweep against the counties on their England cricket tour.

Set a daunting target of 300 from a minimum 49 overs, New Zealand were 243 for eight when the match ended in a draw on the third and final day at Lord's.

The touring team beat county champions Worcestershire then Somerset to the first two of their nine county matches.

West Indian opener Desmond Haynes notched his second century of the match as Middlesex took their overnight total of 64 for one to 251 for three declared. Haynes scored 129 with two sixes and 16 fours from 191 balls, his fifth first class century in his last eight innings.

New Zealand made a brisk start in reply, scoring 49 off the first 10 overs but losing captain

John Wright (18) and Jeff Crowe (20) in the process.

Andrew Jones and Mark Greatbatch revived their hopes with a third wicket partnership of 103 in 18 overs before Jones ran himself out trying for an impossible single to cover.

The New Zealand number three had made 70 from 83 balls with eight fours.

Greatbatch followed for 52 from only 47 balls with seven boundaries and the New Zealanders steadily fell behind the rate required.

Martin Crowe, who had injured a hamstring, batted at number one, finishing on 13 not out.

Scoreboard

MIDDLESEX first innings 332 for six declared (D. Haynes 121, P. Downton 57 not out, M. Snedden 156 for 63). New Zealand first innings 284 for five declared (K. Rutherford 68 not out, J. Wright 54, M. Priest 51 not out). MIDDLESEX second innings (overnight 64 for one)

D. Haynes c and b Jones 129
M. Roseberry c Hadlee b Morrison 0
M. Ramprakash c Priest b Snedden 62
K. Crowe not out 24
R. Butler not out 22
Extras (lb 1 b 9 nb 4) 14
Total (for three wickets declared) 251
Fall of wickets 1-42 2-143 3-225

Bowling: Hadlee 11-2-25-0, Morrison 17-1-67-1, Priest 19-3-73-0, Jones 5-0-28-1, Snedden 8-2-22-1, Rutherford 6-0-26-0

NEW ZEALAND second innings
J. Crowe lbw b Cowans 20
J. Wright c Butler b Thurstfield 18
A. Jones run out 40
M. Greatbatch b Weeks 52
K. Rutherford st Downton b Tufnell 2
I. Smith c Weeks b Tufnell 34
M. Priest b Tufnell 19
R. Hadlee c Roseberry b Tufnell 7
M. Crowe not out 13
M. Snedden not out 0
Extras (lb 4 lb 2 w 1) 8
Total (eight wickets) 251
Fall of wickets 1-34 2-40 3-143 4-150 5-173 6-213 7-228-242

Bowling: Cowans 6-0-25-1, Hughes 6-0-38-0, Thurstfield 9-0-44-1, Tufnell 17-3-76-4, Weeks 13-3-53-1

Result: Match drawn

Magic Johnson gets MVP award again

Trail Blazers edge Suns

PORTLAND, Oregon, May 22, (AP). Kevin Duckworth swished an eight-footer with 17.3 seconds remaining last night, lifting the Portland Trail Blazers to a 100-98 victory over the Phoenix Suns in the opening game of the Western Conference finals.

Portland, making its first appearance in the conference finals since 1977 when the Trail Blazers won their only National Basketball Association championship, defeated the Suns for the 18th consecutive time at Memorial Coliseum.

Phoenix was playing for the first time in six days after upsetting the Los Angeles Lakers in the semifinals.

Phoenix had a chance to tie in the final seconds, but guard Danny Young blocked a shot by Mike McGee, and Buck Williams of the Trail Blazers grabbed the loose ball, securing the victory.

Clyde Drexler had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Portland, and Jerome Kersey has 19 points, 15 in the second half, and 11 rebounds.

Tom Chambers scored 29 points for the Suns, including a three-point that tied the score at 98-98 with 1:09 to play. Kevin Johnson scored 20 points, but only four in the second half, and missed a layup with 34

seconds to go that would have put the Suns ahead.

Johnson was just 2-for-12 from the field after the first quarter.

■ Magic Johnson has been voted the National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player for the second straight year, the Los Angeles Lakers announced yesterday.

Johnson, who led the Lakers to a regular-season record of 63-19, best in the NBA, has won the award three times in the last four years.

He becomes only sixth player in NBA history to win the award three times, joining former teammate Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Moses Malone and Larry Bird.

Commissioner David Stern was to present the award today to Johnson, who averaged 22.3 points, 11.5 assists and 6.5 rebounds per game this season.

Despite Johnson's 25.2-point average in nine playoff games, the Lakers were eliminated last Tuesday night by the Phoenix Suns in their Western Conference semifinal series. Voting was conducted at the end of the regular season.

Arias upset in opener

BOLOGNA, Italy, May 22, (AP). Sixth-seeded Jimmy Arias of the United States was upset in the first round of the Bologna International last night, falling to Jerome Potier of France 7-5, 7-6 (6-3).

Todd Witsken of the United States defeated Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela 6-3, 7-5 in the other first-round match Monday.

Arias never seemed in control of his game during the match, which was suspended at one point because of rain.

■ Fifth-seeded Angelica Gavaldon of the United States was eliminated from the \$150,000 Strasbourg Open women's tennis tournament yesterday, losing her opening day match to Barbara Romano of Italy, 6-1, 6-1.

Gavaldon, a 16-year-old who made the quarterfinals of the Australian Open last January, was ranked 47th in the world.

In the only other match, Ann Grossman of the United States outlasted Maria Stranlund, 2-6, 6-2, 6-0.

LOCAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENTS



The best players, Dr. Adel Bayoumi (left), Dona Materny (3rd left) and Salman Ali (right), with Ziad Shalabi (2nd left) and Nahil Akel. (Photos by Majid Sukr)

Barclays tourney

A TOURNAMENT was held on Friday at the Regency to end the first season of the Barclays Cigarette Bridge. The event, held under the direction of Nahil Akel, saw prizes being distributed to the Best Players of Barclay and winners of Friday's tournament.

The best players were as follows:
Sharing first: Mrs. Dona Materny, Salman Ali, Dr. Adel Bayoumi
Fourth: Adly Tiab
Results of Friday's tournament: N/S

1. Adly Tiab & Sherrin Basyouni
2. Khurshid Zuhari & Santos Aurora
3. Mamdouh Sabri & Saad El Saeed
4. Alfred Banayot & Johnny Esperancee
1st mixed pair: Lollo Murthwaite & Nahil Akel
E/W:

1. K.T. Simon & J. Gajjar
2. Suleiman Al Saleh & Alain Moussali
3. Abdulatif Duaij & Stanley Drexler
4. Mohammed Merchant & Ravi Bhatt
1st mixed pair: Suhendan & Melih Oskay

The prizes were presented by Nahil Akel and Barclays' representative Ziad Shalabi.



The other winners with their trophies



One of the games in progress



Nahil and Lollo best

Nahil Akel and Lollo Murthwaite were declared joint winners of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club's Best Player of the Year award at the End of the Year Tournament, directed by Nahil Akel, on Monday. Sharing third place were Nida Khalaf and Suhendan Oskay. In Monday's tournament the result was as follows: 1st Nida Khalaf & Suhendan Oskay, 2nd Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite, 3rd Dona Materny & Claire Bashiere and 4th Bianca Moussali. The prizes were presented by Nahil Akel. Above: the winners with their prizes. (Photos by Majid Sukr)



SAS bridge

SAS Bridge Club held their End of Season Tournament on Sunday. The following were declared Best Players of the Year:
Sharing first: Dona Materny & Bianca Moussali
Sharing third: Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite

5th: Rabab Abboushi
6th: Nadia Araabi
7th: Rima Ayyad
8th: Margaret Maynard
9th: Elaine Karala
10th: Greta Shantoura

Results of the tournament held on Sunday:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2. Rima Ayyad & Khala Khouri
3. Clara Bastiere & Randa Finan
4. Dona Materny & Bianca Mous-



The club thanks Tanagra, Winston Cigarettes, 7up and SAS for sponsoring the tournament.

Above: some of the winners with their prizes. Top: some of the games in progress. (Photos by Majid Sukr)

Just arrived at

SHOK

Solimiy - Water

Graf, Seles top seeds in French Open

PARIS, May 22, (AP): Two-time champion Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, who has beaten the world's top two women's players in consecutive weeks, will lead the seedings at next week's \$5.35-million French Open tennis tournament, according to the WTA Tour rankings.

Although late withdrawals may affect the final list which will become official on Friday at the draw, the seedings match the Women's International Lawn Tennis Association ranks among the players entered.

Graf, who won the tournament in 1987 and 1988, is ranked No. 1 and will be the top seed, but Martina Navratilova, ranked No. 2 in the world, is skipping the Paris event in preparation for Wimbledon, which begins June 25.

Seles, who beat Navratilova on May 13 in the Italian Open final and then beat Graf Sunday in the German Open championship to snap the West German's 66-match winning streak, will be the No. 2 seed.

■ Results of Group Two matches at the World Team Cup round-robin tennis tournament today in Dusseldorf (each match is played over the best of three rubbers): Sweden vs Austria 6-4, 6-3; Stefan Edberg beat Thomas Muster 6-2, 6-4. Sweden take a 2-0 winning lead.

Yugoslavia vs Argentina (Yugoslav names first): Goran Ivanisevic beat Alberto Mancini 6-4, 6-0. Yugoslavia lead 1-0.

Rimet's competition grows beyond recognition

World Cup: biggest show on Earth



The glorious 1962 Brazilian team.

the interval, Uruguay won the Cup which had been designed by French sculptor Abel Lafleur 4-2.

Italy 1934: For the only time the holder declined to defend the trophy in a 17-nation knockout tournament won again by the hosts.

Italy's triumph, in the delight of Benito Mussolini, left both Argentina and Brazil disenchanted after travelling 8,000 miles (13,000 km) for just one game each in the first round.

Italy beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 after extra time in the final after trailing 1-0 until eight minutes from time.

France 1938: Italy travelled to

France and did it again on foreign soil but politics kept away a number of top nations. Austria qualified, but withdrew — though some of their players appeared in the colours of Germany — and Spain was ravaged by civil war. Argentina and Uruguay also stayed away.

Brazil and Poland produced one of the greatest games of all time in Strasbourg with the South Americans triumphing 6-5 after extra time thanks to four goals from Leonidas who played barefoot for a spell.

In the final, Italy beat Hungary 4-2 in Paris.

Brazil 1950: After World War II (during which Rimet

reclaimed the trophy from Italy and kept it under his bed), the World Cup returned and Uruguay won it for a second time in the "final" which was not a final.

Before that, however, the United States beat England 1-0 in Belo Horizonte and Sweden's amateurs beat Italy 3-2 in Sao Paulo.

A mini-League format was used and Brazil, Sweden, Spain and Uruguay were the final contestants. Brazil needed only a draw in their clash with Uruguay to clinch the trophy, but lost 2-1 in front of a crowd of 198,350 in Rio's Maracana Stadium.

Switzerland 1954: Hungary were the favourites with a team including Puskas, Boszic, Kocsis and Hidegkuti, unbeaten in 28 internationals and Olympic champions.

But after the infamous "Battle of Bern" with Brazil — three players were sent off and the teams fought afterwards in the dressing rooms — the Hungarians were rattled.

West Germany 1974: Aooother host triumph as the Germans took the new FIFA World Cup for the first time in a tournament remembered for the arrival of

In the final, after leading 2-0 against West Germany, whom they had beaten 8-3 in the opening round, they went down 3-2.

Sweden 1958: Brazil, inspired by 17-year-old Pele, won the trophy for the first time. Pele scored against Wales, hit a hat-trick in a 5-2 win over France and struck two more in the final, a 5-2 triumph over the hosts.

Frenchman Just Fontaine scored 13 goals to the tournament, a record which still stands.

Chile 1962: Another Brazilian triumph, but Pele played in only the opening game against Mexico before being injured. Brazil beat Czechoslovakia 3-1 in the final in Santiago with goals from Amarildo, Zito and Vava.

England 1966: The hosts triumphed again after the trophy was stolen while on display in London. It was recovered by a dog called Pickles under a bush in a park.

Pele was again battered, this time by Bulgaria's defence as Brazil's bid for a hat-trick faltered. England, shrewdly managed by Alf (later Sir Alf) Ramsey, beat West Germany 4-2 after extra time in a thrilling final at Wembley where Geoff Hurst made history with a hat-trick.

Mexico 1970: Pele returned after vowing never to play in another World Cup and Brazil won the Rimet Trophy outright with a near-perfect team including Clodoaldo, Gerson, Rivelino, Tostao, Jairzinho, Pele and Carlos Alberto.

In the final at Mexico City's Aztec stadium, Brazil dazzled and danced to a memorable 4-1 win over Italy.

West Germany 1974: Aooother host triumph as the Germans took the new FIFA World Cup for the first time in a tournament remembered for the arrival of

total football.

The Netherlands, with Johan Cruyff outstanding, beat Argentina 4-0 and Brazil 2-0 to announce their arrival, but could not overcome West Germany in the final and went down 2-1. Gerd Mueller, "Der Bomber", typically scoring the winner.

Argentina 1978: Hysterical support and ticketape welcomes for the home team helped carry them to victory over the Netherlands in the final which Cruyff turned his back on.

Argentina were outplayed by Italy in the opening round group games, but charged back to reach the final with a 6-0 win over Peru.

In Daniel Passarella, Osvaldo Ardiles and Marin Kempes, top scorers with six goals, they had outstanding players. They beat the Dutch 3-1 after extra time in the final.

Spain 1982: Italy survived the opening round on goal difference and then went on to win the trophy for a third time after a beautiful Brazilian team had bowed out to them in the second phase.

Zico, Socrates, Falcao and Eder could not stop attacking and Brazil paid for it when they lost 3-2 to a Paolo Rossi hat-trick. Italy went on to the final and beat West Germany 3-1.

Mexico 1986: Terrible earthquakes were the prelude to the tournament, but Argentina, with Diego Maradona the star, were never perturbed by anything.

Brazil fell in the quarterfinals on penalties to France who were in turn muscled out by the West Germans in the semifinals.

Maradona, with two goals against both England — one a deliberate handball — and Belgium, led Argentina through and in the final they overcame West Germany 3-2 in front of 115,000 at the Aztec Stadium.

AC Mila look to Gullit in Cup final

VIENNA, May 22, (Re)

The worst thing about per

ing a miracle, as Rudi Gullit discovering, is that every expects you to do it again.

The dreadlocked Dutch

ward is supposed to return

role of waving the magic

for reigning champions

Milan in tomorrow's Euro

Cup final with Benfica at

Prater Stadium.

As tall orders go, this

looks taller than the Pra

celebrated big wheel.

Gullit came back from a

week break with a knee inju

net two goals as Milan cru

Steaau Bucharest 4-0 in

year's final.

If that was improbable,

time it seems impossible. G

has been through an agon

11-month lay-off and three

operations before floodi

way back. Two brief appe

ces in the Italian League are

has behind him.

But Milan made it clear

believe in miracles when

presented Gullit with a th

extension of his cont

yearday.

If the player feels daunted

all, it does not show. "The

thing for me is to believe in

am doing," he said. "I can't

will be able to do what I did

year's final, though if the

come my way.

"But football is not about

What's important is that M

retain the European title

and confident we will."

Milan start as clear favo

to repeat their 1963 Euro

Cup final victory when they

l a Benfica team, includi

great Eusebio, 2-1 at Wemb

Cesare Maldini, father of cur

Milan left-back Paolo Mald

earned a winner's medal

day.

Gullit apart, the pre-set

oozes style and inventiveness

from the back where swee

Franco Baresi is in a class of

own, through the midfield w

Frank Rijksard is an irresist

driving force, to the front

where Marco van Basten is

simply Marco van Basten.

By contrast, Benfica are a

competent outfit lacking in

attacking flair which mai

Milan such a spectacular

worthy of the world-w

admiration they have earned.

The Portuguese are sure

play a containing game, w

Brazilian World Cup defend

Aldair and Ricardo attempt

to snuff out the Gullit-Van

ten menace.

Their other key players

midfielder Valdo, the tan

third Brazilian World Cup

member, and their big bl

Swedish striker Mats Magn

son.

Magnusson cannot mai

Vao Basten for elegance

creativity but he does know

too well that the ball belongs

the back of the net — as sh

shown 33 times in the Portug

League this season.

Benfica may be difficult

beat but to win themselves

must break a losing sequen

Since taking the trophy for

second time in 1962, they h

lost four European Cup fin

Manager Sven Eriksson

reporters he would hav

preferred to meet some of

Italian club to the final

"Everyone says Milan are

favoured. I think this analys

correct, because they have

best team in the world. But

Benfica want to be European

champions and we all know

the ability to do it."

Both teams should be fresh

for the final. The Italian

ended more than three week

giving Milan ample time to

back into the right frame of

after a disastrous final at

they surrendered both th

League and Cup.

"We have had the time and

opportunity to prepare for

this final in the best way possible.

We were very tired from all our

commitments during the season.

But those disappointments have

made us concentrate with even

more determination on the

European Cup final," Baresi

said.

Stricter anti-doping stance called for

LONDON, May 22, (Reuter): The British Amateur Athletic Board urged the international federation today to take a stricter anti-doping stance.

"We are not happy with the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) slackness of approach to this," board spokesman Tony Ward told reporters. "We believe that the IAAF policies are not strong enough."

At a news conference earlier Ward outlined what he called the board's "draconian policies," against drug offenders.

"Drugs are a major menace to society," he said. "And sport must be in the forefront of this against it."

Ward confirmed that athletes such as twice world high hurdles champion Greg Foster will be permanently banned from British invitation athletics meetings.

Foster is one of five American athletes banned for three months after testing positive for stimulants commonly found in over-the-counter medications. Each of the athletes has denied taking anything other than cold medicines or vitamins.

Ward said the board had extended its ban to include overseas athletes who had been banned for drug offences and subsequently settled in Britain. These athletes can not now compete in domestic events.

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 22, (Reuter): Results of major league baseball games played yesterday.

American League		
Oakland	4	Toronto 1
Boston	4	Texas 2
Minnesota	7	Baltimore 3
California	5	Cleveland 3
Detroit	11	Kansas City 6
Chicago WS	6	NY Yankees 5
Seattle	9	Milwaukee 4

National League		
Atlanta	6	St Louis 5
Cincinnati	4	Chicago Cubs 3
Houston	3	Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia	5	San Francisco 2
NY Mets	12	Los Angeles 3

Boban omitted

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 22, (Reuter): Dinamo Zagreb captain Zvonimir Boban has been omitted from Yugoslavia's World Cup soccer squad because he kicked a policeman during violent crowd disturbances, coach Ivica Osim said yesterday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

UAE thrashed

MARSEILLE, France, May 22, (Reuter): World Cup finalists the United Arab Emirates (UAE) received a warning that they could be in for a hard time in Italy next month when they were thrashed 4-0 by Poland in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Romania win

BUCHAREST, May 22, (Reuter): A 19th-minute header by Rodion Camataru gave Romania a 1-0 win over Egypt in an international soccer friendly between the two World Cup finalists yesterday.

Soccer fans

FLORENCE, May 22, (Reuter): Fifteen Florentine soccer fans will face trial for rioting against the transfer of midfielder Roberto Baggio to Juventus, judicial sources said yesterday.

New contract

MILAN, Italy, May 22, (Reuter): AC Milan's inspirational Dutch international Ruud Gullit signed a new three-year contract yesterday after almost a year out of soccer with nagging knee injuries. Club officials said the new contract was worth two billion lire (\$1.4 million) a year from July 1990 to June 1993, the same amount paid to Gullit's Dutch team mate Marco van Basten.

Security force

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 22, (AP): The first contingent of 3,200 strong anti-terrorist security force arrived this week on the Sardinia, site of the World Cup Group F first-round games that will play host to the notorious fans of England and the Netherlands. Paramilitary carabinieri and police officers will control Europe's most troublesome fans during the initial matches in June.



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona arrives in Tel Aviv with his wife and two children on Monday for a match against the Israeli team. (Reuter wirephoto)

More players will defect, says All Blacks' coach

WELLINGTON, May 22, (Reuter): All Black rugby union coach Alex Wyllie said today that international players would continue switching to professional Rugby League unless union administrators paid leading players more.

"Until that's looked at and looked at in a big way, we are always going to have problems," he said.

Wyllie was responding to news yesterday that All Blacks' fullback John Gallagher, a veteran of 18 Tests since 1986, had accepted a five-year contract with English Rugby League club Leeds.

Local newspapers say the contract was worth 1.3 million New Zealand dollars (\$743,600), but Gallagher has refused to disclose the figure.

Gallagher's decision came one week after New Zealand's second-string fullback Matthew Ridge said he had signed with Sydney Rugby League club Manly.

John Gallagher

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SAFeway - Fathieh - First Floor Opening Hours: Sat.-Tues.: 10AM-1PM 4PM-10PM Wed.-Fri.: 10AM-10PM

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